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Sleepless night syndrome



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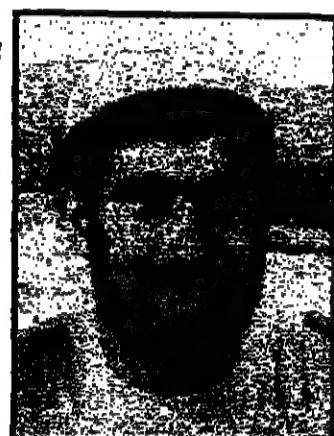
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Beersheba terrorist also murdered Shlomo Ra'an

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Palestinian who carried out Monday's Beersheba grenade attack also murdered Rabbi Shlomo Ra'an in Tel Rumeida this summer and threw grenades at IDF troops in Hebron on Yom Kippur, the army said yesterday.



Salem Rajab Sarsour (AP)

The army identified the man as Salem Rajab Sarsour, 29, from the Palestinian-controlled area in Hebron. He told interrogators that Hamas sent him to carry out the attacks.

The army said Sarsour had been a low-ranking Hamas activist acting on his own, but was recruited by the Hamas military wing after he murdered Ra'an.

Earlier yesterday, Hamas released a statement claiming responsibility for the Beersheba attack, in which 64 people were wounded. It said that soldiers had been the target and warned that more attacks would follow. But unlike in previous attacks, Sarsour's name was not specifically mentioned in the statement. The Palestinian Authority last night said Sarsour was actually an informer for the General Security Service. It said the GSS had threatened to reveal his identity if he did not provide information and his subsequent attacks were an attempt to clear his name.

Palestinian security sources said that they informed negotiators at Wye Plantation that

Sarsour was a collaborator to show that the Israelis fabricated charges against the PA.

GSS agents did contact Sarsour in an attempt to turn him into an informer, Channel 2 said in an unattributed report. According to the report, the GSS met with Sarsour after he had murdered Ra'an, but without knowing he was the murderer. He reportedly told the agent: "It'll be OK," but the GSS never heard from him again.

Sarsour, a plasterer and a father of five, does not fit the IDF's profile of Hamas terrorists, who are usually unmarried teenagers. He is devout and is known in his neighborhood as "Sheikh Salem" because of his religious fervor.

Sarsour told interrogators that on August 20 he had prepared petrol bombs and set out to throw them at soldiers, but he did not find any. Instead, he turned toward Tel Rumeida and saw Ra'an through the window of his trailer. Sarsour, armed with a knife, climbed into room and stabbed him in the heart. He fled, tossed two petrol bombs at the house, and returned to his home.

According to the IDF, it was at this stage that he sought out a senior Hamas activist in Hebron, told him what he had done, and asked to join the military wing. The senior activist accepted and arranged to have him trained in throwing grenades, the army said. He also gave him four fragmentation grenades and one stun grenade, and instructed him to carry out attacks against military and civilian targets, the army said.

Sarsour's next attack came on Yom Kippur. He told interrogators that he was responsible for the grenade attack on Hebron's Gross Square, which wounded 14 soldiers and eight Palestinians.

Last Thursday and again on Saturday, he went to Jerusalem with grenades with the intention of carrying out an attack. But each time he failed to find an "appropriate" target and returned home.

See TERRORIST, Page 2

Hussein joins talks

By DANNA HARMAN

QUEENSTOWN, Md. — The bargaining at Wye Plantation is "gruesome," but "there is a good chance we will clinch a deal at the last minute," a senior member of the Israeli delegation said yesterday.

Channel 1 reported last night that a signing ceremony is planned for tomorrow morning.

Core issues, Page 2

With the talks being extended until at least tonight, the negotiators have shifted into high gear, with an extra boost from Jordan's King Hussein's joining the mediation efforts.

Hussein, who left the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota on Monday to rest at his home near Washington, arrived at Wye Plantation yesterday afternoon. After meeting with President Bill Clinton for 20 minutes, he said he felt "positive" and "heartened by the possibility of playing a role."

After Israel threatened to cut off all talks on matters unrelated to security following Monday's Beersheba terrorist attack, talks on all matters resumed yesterday. Security, however, remained the key question.

A Palestinian delegate said the Israelis showed "some understanding" of a security plan the Palestinians had submitted. "But they have to sit down further," he added.

An Israeli official said that "the issues are not closed. There are still issues that are unacceptable to us," [Clinton] heard our demands."

The fall-back "partial agreement" Israel has offered would leave out the most contentious points, such as the extent and timing of a third withdrawal on the West Bank.

Wye deal expected soon



President Bill Clinton watches as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat shake hands Monday evening at the Wye River Conference Center. (White House/AP)

Israel also wants to delay decisions on safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank for Palestinians and on "unilateral acts," a political code for Israel's settlement policy and Palestinian plans to declare a state.

The Palestinians have repeatedly rejected the idea of a partial agreement, saying they must get commitments now.

There was talk of a four-way meeting among Clinton, Hussein, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat later yesterday.

"We expect him [Hussein] to be a key player in this drama," said State Department spokesman James Rubin, saying the king would be available to both sides

and would work to "encourage the leaders to move ahead, instead of focusing on long-standing complaints."

Reports that both Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and President Ezer Weizman have also been asked to come to Wye Plantation are unconfirmed, although it is conceivable — especially if there is a signing ceremony

at the White House today or tomorrow. Clinton spoke briefly to Mubarak yesterday afternoon.

"We are clearly into a phase of very hard bargaining," said Rubin. "Much of the underbrush has been cleared away... [this] is part of the end game that is getting more and more serious."

See WYE, Page 7

Conservatives issue new 'Rabbi's Manual'; includes abortion 'grieving ritual'

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative) yesterday released its first updated *Rabbi's Manual* in three decades, with detailed rules on conversion, gender-neutral language, and rites for contemporary situations, including the first "grieving ritual" for a couple after an abortion.

The manual — some 688 pages in two volumes — is three times the size of the previous, 1965 edition. It is intended "to help a rabbi meet the contemporary needs of the congregants he or she serves, always drawing on the sources of our tradition," said Rabbi Perry Raphael Rank, of Springfield, New Jersey, one of its editors.

It is published by the Rabbinical Assembly, whose members serve 750 Conservative synagogues in North America and 200 elsewhere. The manual's guidelines for handling conversions are not stricter, said Rabbi Larry Troster, program director at the Jewish Life Network in New York. Instead, the new manual is more explicit about the steps and demands of conversion, and standardizes some practices.

The procedures call for the con-

vert to sign a detailed paper in the presence of a rabbinical court, pledging to give children "a quality Jewish education," make Shabbat and the holidays "important moments of holiness," maintain kashrut, affiliate with a synagogue, attend services, and pray regularly. The manual also includes ceremonies to help Jews cope with infertility, the death of a newborn, and the birth of a handicapped child. Other new rituals mark birthdays, adoption, retirement, and leaving for camp or college.

"We are trying to respond to new situations for which people want liturgy," Troster said. "There has been a real explosion in liturgical creativity in all three [religious] movements in the last 10 years, and a lot has to do with women's experience and participation."

The post-abortion ritual, which makes no judgment on the practice, was written by Rabbi Amy Eilberg, of San Francisco. The language can be adapted to the reasons for a specific abortion. "You made a choice, choosing life for (mother's name), for the two of you as a couple, for your family, for the well-being of children yet to come into your lives," the rabbi says. "We grieve with you over the loss of this seed of life, and we affirm your essence as people gifted with the ability to nurture other life."

See RABBIS, Page 2

Gambling in Jericho illegal for Israelis, rules Rubinstein

By LIAT COLLINS and STEVE RODAN

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein has determined that Israelis who gamble in Jericho are violating the law and can be prosecuted in Israeli courts, even though the casino is in a Palestinian autonomous area.

He gave this response to a letter by Knesset Law Committee chairman Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), who raised the issue after Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said that some MKs and Knesset workers gamble.

"We haven't received any specific complaints about what is going on at the casino," Rubinstein said in the letter. "However... there is room to ask the police to deal with goings-on at the casino in terms of law enforcement, and we are doing that."

A spokeswoman for the mostly Austrian-owned Oasis Casino said

the owners understood from previous meetings with Rubinstein that Israel would not prosecute its clients.

"Our entrepreneurs were under the impression that it's not the policy of the State of Israel to take any legal action against any Israeli who goes gambling... outside of Israel," said Orna Gorell, a spokeswoman for Casinos Austria.

Gorell said that they had not received any official or unofficial complaint from the Israeli government about Israelis gambling in Jericho.

According to Porat, under the Oslo Accords, Israeli law, which bans gambling, applies to Israeli citizens even in the autonomous areas. He said that people who gamble in Tabar or Turkey are not violating the law, but in the case of the Jericho casino, it is illegal.

Palestinian Tourism Minister Mitri Abu Atta declined to comment on Rubinstein's decision.

PLC member Husam Khader

(Fatah), who is a vehement critic of the casino, said he was delighted with Rubinstein's decision and hopes "it will stop the awkwardness for many of the Fatah fighters whose task it is to guard the casino."

Porat said apart from the problems of gamblers who lose all their property, the money goes to the pockets of a few senior Palestinian Authority officials and does not benefit the general population.

Israelis are the main clientele at the highly successful casino, which opened in September, and has the potential to generate millions of dollars for the fledgling Palestinian economy.

MK Ephraim Oshaya (Labor) demanded that Tichon publicly reveal the names of those MKs who gamble to avoid a situation in which all MKs are under a shadow. Porat said, however, such a step would require careful consideration.

See GAMBLING, Page 2

Neeman mulls ways to counter new housing law

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday he is considering using the budgetary arrangements bill to override the Public Housing Law which passed the Knesset on Monday night.

Sheetrit calls for ouster of Third Way, Page 4
Dollar breaks NIS 4.3 barrier, Page 16

Moshe Leon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, estimated the new law, which encourages public housing tenants to purchase their homes at a large discount, will cost the country some NIS 3 billion-NIS4b, and said that the government may have to increase taxes in order to recoup the lost income.

"You're talking about a huge sum," he said. "I don't know

where else we'll get the money."

Neeman, however, rejected outright any tax hike to foot the housing reform's bill. "Raising taxes means a continuation of the slow-down; even deep recession and far higher unemployment," he said.

Asked how the law can be financed, Neeman said he may use the upcoming 1999 state budget debate, and the budgetary arrangements bill which accompanies it, to wipe out the effects of the new law.

Leon said the government will have to uphold the law as passed, but added: "This government has faced tougher problems than this, and I'm sure it will be solved."

Coalition whip Meir Sheetrit yesterday expressed his anger that The Third Way had voted with the opposition in support of the bill, but Neeman refused to be drawn into the political fray.

"I don't deal with coalition arguments," said Neeman. "I was brought to the Treasury by the prime minister to represent the people."

Jerusalem police brace for doomsday cult

By ELI WOHLGELER

The disappearance last week in Denver of a cult reportedly headed to Jerusalem to commit mass suicide before the millennium is just one more example of what police and psychiatrists here are bracing for in the coming months.

Police here were alerted last week to be on the lookout for 50 members of the doomsday cult Concerned Christians, led by Monte Kim Miller, who has told his followers he would die in Jerusalem in December 1999 and be resurrected three days later.

"I personally think they are in Mexico, but I have no doubt that he may try to get into Jerusalem," said Hal Mansfield, director of the Religious Movement Resource Center, which monitors cult groups. "He talks about dying on the steps of Jerusalem in December of 1999."

Mansfield and others fear a mass suicide after Miller's prophecy that Denver would be the center for an apocalyptic disaster failed to materialize.

Published reports say two Christians were refused entry dur-

ing the summer, after police learned they intended to carry out an attack on the Temple Mount "to precipitate Armageddon."

Police would not comment on that incident or any other security preparations for the millennium.

Dr. Yair Bar-El, director of Jerusalem's Kfar Shaul Psychiatric Hospital, said he has been contacted by the Foreign and Tourism ministries over the expected arrival of millions of Christian pilgrims in 2000.

See DOOMSDAY, Page 7

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NEWS

in brief

Report: Saddam Hussein has cancer

Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein is suffering from cancer, according to a report on Channel 2 yesterday. Quoting unnamed Western and European sources, the report said the Iraqi ruler has been undergoing chemotherapy for some time. The report said the information had been relayed to US President Bill Clinton during the Wye Plantation summit. A Kuwaiti newspaper reported last week that Saddam is suffering from colon cancer. However, there is no public indication that he is seriously ill. In the past 10 days, he has chaired three sessions of the Iraqi cabinet, all shown on Iraqi television. AP

Mitzna meets with Jordan's Hassan

Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna met with Crown Prince Hassan in Amman yesterday to discuss the stalled Mideast peace process and closer cooperation between the two countries. The meeting comes one day after the prince held talks with the mayor of Umm el-Fahm, Raed Salah. Israeli Embassy spokesman Roi Gilad said Mitzna was accompanied by 15 business executives at the meeting. Hassan, who is King Hussein's brother, is acting as regent while the monarch is undergoing cancer treatment in the US. AP

Syria: Peace with Netanyahu impossible

Making peace with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is impossible, the official Syrian newspaper *al-Baath* said yesterday. It also criticized the Palestinians for joining summit talks in the US. "Events during the last 30 months of Netanyahu's rule show that he is totally opposed to peace and it was impossible to reach any agreement with him which is based on UN resolutions," it said. "What Netanyahu wants is total Arab capitulation to his demands and that Arabs should serve his entity, protect his settlers and preserve Israel's interests and expansionist schemes." Reuters

4 injured in Kafr Manda clan battle

At least four people were injured Monday night in fighting between clans in Kafr Manda, near Nazareth, which was apparently sparked by political rivalry in the run-up to the municipal elections. Police reported that scores of people were involved in the clashes in which a number of petrol bombs were thrown. Police continued to patrol streets of the village yesterday to prevent a resumption of the violence. Israeli Arab leaders also tried to arrange a peace between the rival clans. David Rudge

Slain rabbi's daughter wants his killer executed

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Rabbi Shlomo Ra'anani's daughter, Tsippi Schissel was notified by her husband yesterday afternoon that Saleh Rajab Sarsour, her father's murderer, had been captured. "The death of my father is like an open wound that never heals, reopening every time something happens," she said. "Today, Israeli government officials are at the Wye Plantation meeting with murderers who are no better than the lowly murderer who killed my father. All they want is to kill and destroy us." She called for Sarsour's execution, charging that this would be the only effective deterrent and might save other families from suffering a similar fate. "What guarantees do I have that Sarsour will not be released

in the next prisoner release," she said. Pinhas Wallerstein, chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, informed members of the Israeli delegation at Wye Plantation that Sarsour, who was responsible for the grenade attack in Beersheba, also carried out several other attacks. Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said council members received information on Sarsour and immediately informed delegation members. She said that following Ra'anani's murder, Israeli security forces handed over details about the terrorist to Palestinian security officials and asked them to capture him. The fact that the Palestinians failed to do so, she said, is further proof of the Palestinians' unwillingness to cooperate on security issues.

Sharon snubs Arafat in 1st meeting

By DANNA HARMAN

QUEENSTOWN, Maryland — Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon has said many times in the past that he would never shake the hand of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat — a man he says has Jewish blood on his hands. Many, however, expected that Sharon would be pressured into a handshake by the Americans during the Wye Plantation negotiations. The test came Monday night, when Sharon walked into the dining room to meet the other guests — including the Palestinian leader. Introduced by Netanyahu as "General Sharon," he proceeded to stride confidently into the room.

Upon hearing the introduction, Arafat "snuck out his chest and saluted," said a source close to the participants, but Sharon ignored him completely, shaking first host President Bill Clinton's hand and then those of Arafat's deputy, Mahmoud Abbas, and Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Alijeh Qurei. Even, optimistic, the Americans seated Sharon directly across from Arafat, but witnesses say the foreign minister avoided eye contact with the chairman, while managing to carry on a spirited discussion with the rest of those seated around the table. Despite the lack of real contact, Sharon did talk indirectly to Arafat — holding forth on such matters as the opening of the Gaza sea-

port and safe passage, and displaying knowledge of the Palestinian positions. "He said he won't shake hands and that's the end of the matter," said a Sharon confidant. "This does not, however, affect his ability to carry out serious negotiations. It is unrelated." An American official, however, said there is concern Sharon's presence will stiffen Israel's positions, and make compromise more difficult. It is due to this concern, said the official, that the Americans asked Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to refrain from leaving Wye to attend his scheduled meeting with US Defense Minister William Cohen yesterday. "If Sharon is there pressuring Netanyahu, you can be sure we want Mordechai there,

too, doing some counter-pressure," said the official. Palestinian sources said Arafat took Sharon's snub in his stride. "Arafat was indifferent to Sharon's presence," said one Palestinian source. "Sharon was responsible for the killing in cold blood of around 6,000 Palestinian families in Lebanon, but we're here to negotiate and to flex our muscles." The source was referring to Sharon being forced to quit as defense minister in 1995 after a commission of inquiry found him indirectly responsible for the killing of hundreds of Palestinians by Christian militiamen at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps near Beirut.



Safety net

Young members of the Labor Party hold up the 'safety net' the party has promised to provide Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, as they demonstrate outside his Jerusalem residence yesterday, urging him to sign a redeployment agreement with the Palestinians. (Brian Hendler)

The core issues behind the deal

By DANNA HARMAN

QUEENSTOWN, Maryland — Going into negotiation "overtime" there are some matters close to resolution, while others seem as intractable as ever. Here is an updated scoreboard: **Interim issues:** The opening of the Karni industrial park is not being discussed any more, since agreement has already been reached. Legal and economic committees continue their work and there has been progress. Talks on the seaport and safe passage continue but scant progress is being made. It looks like these two issues will be left out of any deal made at this point, and negotiations on them will be restarted later. Talks on the opening of a Palestinian airport in Gaza are continuing, and there is hope that this matter can be resolved soon. The point of contention remains security at the airport. Israel wants the right to check all planes — including Palestinian Authority Yasser Arafat's personal plane — before they take off or touch down. The Palestinians reject this. **Security issues:** Security arrangements remain the linchpin of the negotiations. Even a partial deal will be difficult if there is not some security understanding reached. Talks on issues like reduction of the Palestinian police force, confiscation of arms, and parallel restrictions on Israeli extremists continue apace. No issue has been agreed upon fully, but it seems one of the areas close to conclusion concerns the Palestinian demand that Israel release a number of prisoners from its jails. The main knot being worked on is the drafting of a security memorandum, which seeks to set out the framework of cooperation in the fight against terror. The understanding is that if and when agreement is reached, the CIA will oversee the implementation and serve as a referee when problems arise. Another problem area is extradition, and the question of prisoner arrests. Israel is demanding that the PA extradite some 36 Palestinians listed as terrorists and arrest many more. This matter has taken on heightened importance since the revelation that the terrorist who threw the grenade in Beersheba Monday was on a wanted list Israel recently delivered to the Palestinians. **Third redeployment:** This matter is very contentious, and there has been no agreement. Israel continues to demand the right to define the scope of the withdrawal,

and to set it at around one percent. The Palestinians adamantly refuse, holding out for a much more substantial redeployment. The only agreement that could be forged at this point is one to postpone discussions on the matter. **Abrogation of the Palestinian Charter:** The Israelis are demanding that the PNC convene to cancel those parts of the charter dealing with Israel's destruction. The Palestinians say the executive council can do this. While there were reports of an agreement in the works earlier in the week, it now seems this is a matter on which Israel — perhaps due to Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's arrival on the scene — is not willing to compromise. President Bill Clinton reportedly told Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that while he understands Israel's stance, he would appreciate flexibility on this matter. **Palestinian declaration of statehood:** There has been little direct talk on this matter, although it is looming behind all the negotiations. Israel is demanding that the declaration be deferred until the end of final status talks, and that a commitment to this be part of the current deal. The Palestinians do not want this linkage, and maintain their right to declare statehood at the end of the official interim period on May 4, 1999.

under way and it is possible that he may be linked to other attacks, the army said. Twenty-three of the wounded are still hospitalized, including one in serious but stable condition. Sarsour was jailed for several months during the intifada. In September 1996, he was arrested and jailed for eight months for membership in a Hamas cell. According to AP, Israel demolished the Sarsour family home in 1982. Meanwhile, Palestinian security forces detained at least 20 suspected Islamic militants in Hebron yesterday. A senior Palestinian official said the round-up targeted suspects whose activities could harm the stability of Palestinian society or "jeopardize security and the peace process" with Israel. Mohammed Najib and news agencies contributed to this report.

Past the atmospherics

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By DANNA HARMAN

QUEENSTOWN, Maryland — Each delegate at Wye Plantation has an electric golf cart. Sara Netanyahu prefers to walk and, dutifully, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu follows suit. US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and President Bill Clinton are big ones for strolls, and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat likes his old-fashioned bicycle. Practically everyone else however, has been racing around like kids at summer camp. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's spokesman, Avi Benayahu, for example, accidentally crashed into Palestinian spokesman Ahmed Tibi's backyard the other day. "I'm taking over — this is Area C," said Benayahu jokingly before his subsequent redeployment. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, meanwhile, getting his priorities straight, took his cart for a spin through the fields to check out the cows before his first meeting with Clinton on Monday. After long days on the tracks, Wye also offers evening entertainment. On Sunday night, for example, Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Ilan, a former concert pianist, treated the Israeli delegation to a medley of symphonic selections. The good tunes and fun-filled autumn days, however, seem to be coming to an end. The unofficial deadline for the talks, which Netanyahu set for himself, is over. Speculation is that the talks will end later today or tomorrow and that the signing — never mind what agreement — is imminent. But, then again, these are uncertain times. The Americans are pushing hard for conclusion. Clinton skipped his California jaunt, and then called in King Hussein — who helped successfully broker the Hebron Accords — to back him up in his daily ordeal of pushing the reluctant sides towards a deal. Israelis say that with all the pressure, knots are coming undone. What seems more accurate is that those knots are being pulled so strenuously in different directions — that they will eventually snap. The sides, by now used to the time difference, and having already emptied out the stockrooms of the factory outlets down the road, are really getting down to business. "We are past the atmospherics and are down to the hard bargaining," said State Department spokesman James Rubin confidently at the daily briefing yesterday. "We are sorting it all out." Palestinians and Israelis are fighting hard: battling over the most minute of details, and linking every concession or demand to another matter. It is tough going — but it is going. What is unclear is what the much discussed agreement will look like. A comprehensive deal is the goal, but is also the most unlikely considering the many disagreements still to be resolved. Admission of failure is even less likely. The pundits say we will end up with a mini-deal, otherwise known as a partial agreement. Certain points will be declared resolved, and promises will be made to work on the outstanding points at a later session. "Perhaps," said one sun-loving minister hopefully, "in Hawaii this winter."

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA. King David Street.

Dr. HENRY WAKSBERG 79

A very special person, loved by all who knew him, who will be remembered also for his professional excellence in dentistry, and will be missed by his fellow colleagues, friends, and patients.

Our condolences to his dear wife and three children.

Dr. Samuel Abramson
Dr. Hillel Baruch
Dr. Robert Sreter
and the staff of Migdal Hashen Dental Clinic, Jerusalem
Dr. Elchanan Greenwald
Dr. Eli Prenzlaue and staff
Dr. Larry Klaristenfeld
Dr. Joshua Daniel and Terry Goodman

The funeral will be held today, Wednesday, October 21, at 10:30 a.m. at Har Hamenuhot, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem. Shiva will be held at Rehov Taitan 31/2, Modi'in.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing on 30 Tishre 5758, October 20, 1998 of

HERSCHEL (Zvi) KOLEVSOHN

Deeply mourned by:
His beloved wife: Myrna
His children: Rael, Maya, Lynn, Eyal and family
His brother and sister-in-law: Joey, Adelle and family
His brother-in-law and sister-in-law: Herman, Daphne and family
Funeral tomorrow, October 22, 1998, at the new Ra'anana Cemetery

Knesset ploy buys PM time at summit

By LIAT COLLINS

As a result of a parliamentary maneuver, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday received an extension of the deferral of the political address he is meant to give the Knesset. This will enable him to remain in the US for another few days. Under the Knesset House Rules, the prime minister must present in person a political statement at the opening of a Knesset sitting. With the agreement of all parties in the House, Speaker Dan Tichon authorized the postponement of the address, which should have been given Monday, and rescheduled it for today. When Mokedet and the National Religious Party refused to grant him a further extension, Tichon referred the matter to the House Committee.

The committee discussed different options, including a suggestion by Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg that Netanyahu give his address via satellite from the US. Finally it was decided not to decide — and in this way to solve the problem. Hagai Merom (Labor) proposed that the various factions meet on Monday to decide on how to act and in this way put off the need for a decision, thereby allowing the premier to extend his stay at the summit.

TERRORIST

Continued from Page 1

Finally, on Monday Sarsour reportedly shaved off his beard to look less suspicious and went to Beersheba. He told his interrogators that he had planned to look for work and then throw the grenades. When he didn't find any work, he carried out the attack. The GSS interrogation is still

GAMBLING

Continued from Page 1

Tichon mentioned the gambling issue following a revelation that some Knesset employees gambled and used marijuana during a training program held in Eilat.

Sakher Habash, a member of the Central Committee of Fatah, told the London-based Arabic daily *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* that PA Chairman Yasser Arafat has never

raised the casino issue for discussion either in the cabinet or in the PLO executive committee. "It had never crossed our mind in the Fatah movement that we start such a project in our country," Habash said. "It never came up at any meeting nor had it been proposed to us. We heard about its opening from the preacher of a Friday prayers session. That had set us thinking and then we spelled out our position on the matter." Habash said he supports an appeal made by several ministers

to suspend operations of the casino until the project is reviewed and "redesigned into one that is squared with the image of the holy land." Arafat, whose authority receives 50 percent of revenue, has banned Palestinians from gambling in the casino. Many Palestinians work in the casino, particularly in guarding the installation.

Mohammed Najib and news agencies contributed to this report.

RABBIS

Continued from Page 1

The manual also uses gender-neutral language, saying "monarch" instead of "king" and "mortal" instead of "man." A prayer for the sick mentions Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah along with the traditional "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Reflecting divided opinion in the Conservative movement, the

manual offers two options on living wills for those who are terminally ill or permanently unconscious. One option specifies that all measures to extend life should be taken. The other authorizes the halting of life-sustaining treatment. In both instances, however, the Conservative Jew's living will declares: "I unequivocally reject any form of active euthanasia ('mercy killing') or assisted suicide."

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50 אלבא



Toasting rotation

Labor MK Dalia Itzik yesterday toasts her successor, Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Michael Nudelman (right) as chairman of the Knesset Science Committee, as Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon joins in. Under another rotation agreement, Yisrael Ba'aliya's Marina Solodkin replaced Labor's Yael Dayan as head of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women.

(Itzhak Neri)

IDF: Hamas strike capability weakened

By LIAT COLLINS

Hamas still wants to carry out a mass terror attack such as a suicide bombing but apparently its capability has been weakened recently, said the head of military intelligence Maj-Gen. Amos Malka yesterday.

Speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Malka reportedly said, "If they had a mass terror attack ready, they would have carried it out at this time."

The fact that it has not carried out such an attack does not reflect a strategic decision to refrain from them, but an inability to implement them, he said. He noted that Hamas is still continuing attacks by other means such as shootings and the grenade attack in Beersheba.

He said Hamas's capability has been damaged by Israeli actions to thwart terror and certain, specific actions by the Palestinian Authority acting largely on Israeli intelligence.



Maj-Gen. Amos Malka (I. Harni)

Malka apparently told the MKs that the Palestinian Authority is not doing all it can to deal with the Hamas infrastructure.

"They have the capability both from the operational and the information-intelligence point-of-view to confront the Hamas," he reportedly said. "I hope that after the summit meeting they [the Palestinian Authority] will reach a decision to act more [strongly] against Hamas."

He said relations between the

Palestinian Authority and Hamas are "tense, even very tense" but added that the PA has also not taken a decision to act against Hamas.

Malka said that the Palestinian Authority recognizes the threat it faces in the long term from the Hamas infrastructure.

MKs Haim Ramon (Labor) and Ze'ev (Benny) Begin (Likud) argued over whether the Palestinian Authority is cooperating with Hamas to a certain extent, as Begin claims.

Regarding Hebron, Malka warned that if building plans for Tel Rumeida go ahead it will "definitely cause unrest." He also said the Palestinian security forces are not taking sufficient actions along the seam area between Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in Hebron.

Concerning Lebanon, Malka said Hizbullah still wants to kidnap an IDF soldier. He also said the group is using more sophisticated roadside devices which can be activated from a greater distance.

FBI team in Israel to probe terrorist killings

By STEVE RODAN

A four-man FBI team met yesterday with Israeli officials in the resumption of a long-standing US investigation of American citizens killed in Palestinian terrorist attacks, officials said.

The FBI agents arrived on Monday night and yesterday discussed with Justice Ministry officials the murders of 11 US citizens killed in attacks in Israel and the territories. In many of the cases, the killers are believed to have been set free in Palestinian Authority areas.

A Justice Ministry spokeswoman confirmed that the meetings concerned the US

investigation into the terrorist killings of American citizens. She would not elaborate.

US Embassy spokesman Larry Schwartz also confirmed that an FBI team has arrived, but would only say, "We don't comment on on-going investigations."

Sources close to the probe said the FBI efforts had been shelved for years until key US senators and congressmen complained that the Justice Department was refusing to order an investigation that might embarrass PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. They said the investigation focuses on the killings of David Boim, Alisa Flatow, Yaron Ungar, Nachshon Wachman, and others in a series of Palestinian attacks from 1994-96.

The team, led by deputy assistant attorney general Mark Richard, was first here in March and was given what one source termed "loads of information" on the terrorist attacks and those who carried them out. The FBI had scheduled another visit in September, but it was postponed because of the bombings on the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

The sources said the FBI team will also meet with representatives of the Internal Security Ministry.

A source said the team will not meet with PA officials. Another source, however, said the FBI had planned to discuss the investigation with PA security chiefs, but the agency

might have changed its schedule because several of them are now with Arafat at Wye Plantation.

Another source said the US has encountered difficulties in obtaining PA cooperation. The source said an FBI representative had been turned away several weeks ago by PA wardens when he tried to ascertain that Amjad Hanawi, one of the killers, who was convicted and sentenced by the PA, was actually serving time in a Jericho prison.

Stanley Boim, the father of David Boim, killed in 1996, said the families of the terrorist victims are following the FBI visit. "We haven't had any contact [with the agents], but we will try to make contact," he said.

Hebron settlers warn against 'refuge cities'

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

No one was hurt when shots were fired at a newly established IDF guard post near Hebron's Beit Hadassah on Monday night, but the city's Jewish community warned yesterday that any further withdrawals from the West Bank would result in the land being handed over to the Palestinians becoming a refuge for terrorists.

Spokesman David Wilder said residents wanted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stop negotiations and return home from the US. He said violence is increasing in the city and warned that other areas will suffer the same fate if an agreement on further withdrawals is reached at the Wye Plantation.

The IDF Spokesman said that, since September 18, five shooting incidents have occurred in Hebron and the immediate vicinity. This does not include the two hand grenades thrown at IDF troops on Yom Kippur.

The shots fired on Monday night came from the Palestinian-controlled sector, the spokesman

said, and were aimed at a newly established IDF post in the Shallah Street area. Firebombs were also thrown at troops, but no injuries or damages were reported, the spokesman added.

The Jewish community spokesman said that, of four shots fired at the post, several were aimed at Beit Hadassah and 11 firebombs were thrown at troops.

Monday's Beersheba hand-grenade attack by a Palestinian from Hebron proves that terrorism still reigns in the area, he said. "As long as the IDF refrains from carrying out hot pursuit or firing back at perpetrators of the attacks, the Palestinians will continue, since they know nothing will happen to them," charged Wilder.

Meanwhile, Palestinians protested against the new IDF post, which was set up Monday night on the roof of an apartment house. Sitting on mattresses and chairs outside the building in the Israeli-controlled sector, the Palestinians said they would not leave until the post is dismantled.

Neeman: Government won't foot bill for second redeployment

The government will not foot the bill for the new army bases and roads that will be needed if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agrees to withdraw from more areas of the West Bank, Finance Minister Yaakov Ne'eman said yesterday.

Media reports have said Israel will need \$500 million to \$1 billion to redeploy its forces, and that Israel will ask the United States to assume the costs.

Ne'eman said Israel had already paid to build the West Bank bases in the first place.

"Why should the Israeli public pay?" Ne'eman said.

Asked why the American taxpayers should pay, Ne'eman said: "I didn't say the American public [should pay]. You heard me say

the American public? I didn't say."

He refused to say if the government would turn to international donors who have supported the Oslo accords to handle such costs but insisted that the economy was already too hard pressed to bear the burden.

"Unless we want to put the Israeli economy through more slow down or to a big depression and to have the unemployment [go up], we will have to find sources outside the budget of the state of Israel," Ne'eman told a meeting of the Foreign Press Association.

With leaders still wrangling over security issues at the Wye Plantation in Maryland, Neeman said it was "too early" for the government to raise the issue. (AP)

Settler leaders threaten protest moves against Wye agreement

By HERS KENON and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Land of Israel Front will vote against the government in the next no-confidence vote if reports of concessions at Wye Plantation are correct, MK Michael Kleiner said last night. "He has to know that if he goes through with this, we will be an opposition in every sense of the word," Kleiner said during an "emergency" meeting of settlement activists at the Sha'arei Yerushalayim Hotel.

Activists at the meeting, organized by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, were told to be prepared to mobilize supporters to block 15 key roads into Judea and Samaria the minute an agreement is initiated.

Council director-general

Aharon Domb, in Washington to lobby the Israeli delegation, told the audience via a phone hook-up that it is critical for protesters to begin taking to the streets.

"The reports going out across the US," Domb said, "are that the Right is tired of demonstrations. These hours are critical if we are to preserve the Land of Israel."

Council spokeswoman Yehudit

Tayar, who returned from the US yesterday, said if Netanyahu signs an agreement, "then those affiliated with the national camp will start acting as they did under the former government, when they were in the opposition." In addition to organizing demonstrations, she said, this will mean mean fielding an alternative candidate in the next elections.

MKs debate efficacy of lasers for catching speeders

The Knesset Public Complaints Committee yesterday discussed the police use of laser devices to check speed and the policy of fines, with committee chairman Rafi Elul (Labor) saying the laser device has not been proved reliable.

"It's inconceivable that military courts have ruled that the laser device is not reliable in its present form and cannot be used and that this ruling does not bind the civil traffic courts," Elul said.

Police Supt. Marius Aloini said fines are not an end in themselves, but a deterrent to accidents. "We are all guilty of traffic offenses," he said. "Israelis are not like Dutch citizens. In Israel some 130,000 have not paid fines and this is a serious phenomenon."

Dan Link, from the Transport Ministry's Road Safety Council, said enforcement should be increased, in particular at work sites on interurban roads.

Bringing Arad home

Israel is sparing no effort to find and bring home IAF navigator Ron Arad and the Sultan Yacoub MIA's, Science Minister Silvan Shalom told the Knesset yesterday. Shalom was responding on the government's behalf to a string of motions by MKs from different parties marking 12 years since Arad was captured in Lebanon. Shalom said that, despite these efforts, Arad's fate is still not known.

Tichon cautions Swiss

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon opened yesterday's plenum session with an address to a visiting delegation of Swiss parliamentari-

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

ans, focusing on the wartime banking scandal.

"My friends, you will agree with me that it is inconceivable that somebody should unjustly inherit the money of scores of thousands of victims and even receive commission on it," Tichon said. "We all hope that the process of concluding this affair will be speeded up. This is a heavy debt to the Jewish people and an even greater moral debt by the authorities to the Swiss people."

Protect your MK

The Knesset State Control Committee yesterday discussed the protection of MKs, following a wave of death threats and the torching of Meretz MK Ran Cohen's car outside his home. Earlier this week, Tichon acknowledged that he packs a pistol for protection. Yesterday MK Avner Shaki (National Religious Party) became the latest to receive a threat. Some 70 death threats, some with bullets attached to the letters, have been received by MKs across the political spectrum recently.

General Security Service head Ami Ayalon did not turn up for the debate, saying the protection of parliamentarians does not fall under his jurisdiction. The matter was referred to the Sub-committee on Secret Services.

'MKs aren't robbers'

Tichon criticized Finance

Minister Yaakov Neeman for blasting MKs for rejecting a proposed wage freeze for ministers and their deputies. Tichon said he wants an outside body to determine the wages of MKs and ministers and complained that Neeman should not have thrown the decision on the freeze onto the Knesset to determine. He also said Neeman had acted "arrogantly and foolishly" when he presented a picture of MKs as robbing the public coffers.

New bills debut

Several bills passed preliminary readings in the Knesset yesterday. These include:

- a bill proposed by Ephraim Oshaya (Labor) and supported by Communications Minister Limor Livnat, under which the bimonthly fee for maintaining a phone line would be determined by the number of call units registered;
- several bills to grant unemployment benefits to self-employed people who stop work, for example if their business folds; submitted by MKs Abraham Poraz (Shinui), Avi Yehzekel, Yona Yahav and Ophir Pines (all Labor) and Yisrael Ba'aliya's Yuri Stern (Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai opposes it because of the cost of its implementation);
- a bill which would provide unemployment benefits to kibbutzniks who are made redundant under the new system in many kibbutzim, whose members have to find their own jobs but are not eligible for state unemployment compensation. The bill was proposed by Labor MKs Elie Goldschmidt and Hagga Merom, both Kibbutz members.

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Sheetrit calls for ouster of Third Way

By SARAH HONIG

Likud Knesset faction chairman Meir Sheetrit yesterday urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to throw The Third Way out of the coalition because of its support Monday for a public housing bill opposed by the government.

The Third Way MKs voted with the opposition to help pass the bill, which calls for enabling long-term tenants to purchase their homes at a discount.

"There are sometimes situations where it is better and more honorable to call it quits and go to the voter," said Sheetrit. "To carry on with coalition partners like the Third Way is intolerable."

"This party is running wild and its reasons sometimes have nothing to do with the issue at hand," he added.

Sheetrit said that "Netanyahu would have no choice but to call the Third Way to order when he comes back because governing concerns many more issues than our relations with the Arabs."

Another scathing attack on The Third Way came from Shas leader Aryeh Deri, who charged that The Third Way's support for the controversial bill "had absolutely nothing to do with its feigned concern for the have-

nots. The Third Way's interests are far removed from Israel's poor," he said.

Deri added that if "The Third Way indeed had the interests of the disadvantaged in mind, it could have supported the bill the government was sponsoring on the same matter."

Deri argued that The Third Way was moved by two factors, which were "wholly extraneous to the bill at hand."

"The first is the fact that [The Third] Way leader Yehuda Harel is a kibbutznik and he needs to justify all leased lands the kibbutzim are getting as a gift, by handing out other gifts to those renting public housing."

"Second, and I heard this from a number of Third Way MKs and activists, is the fact that they decided deliberately to vote against Netanyahu in order to send him a message at Wye," Deri said.

"They are saying to him that if he doesn't strike the deal they advocate, then he can expect their rebellion," he added.

Another objection to the law came from Yisrael Ba'aliya's Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who maintained that "this legislation perhaps bestows perks on veteran immigrants, who have had decades to adjust and find their way in this country."

But it does nothing for the newest immigrants who are the ones in the greatest and most urgent need of all."

Harel denied vehemently that his party's vote was supposed to send a political message to Netanyahu in Maryland. "He knows where we stand anyway and doesn't need such votes to make the point," he said.

Harel confirmed that "the fact that the kibbutzim are getting leased lands played a role. It created a matter of conscience for me and I thought that if we are getting something, so should the others to erase the charge that we are enjoying special privileges."

Political observers note that Shas and Geshet are again on opposite sides of an issue. The fact that public housing residents who filled the public gallery in the Knesset during the vote chanted praises of Geshet leader David Levy, could not have escaped Deri's ears.

Geshet and Shas both claim to represent the Sephardim and both are competing for part of the same electorate. This is seen as the reason Deri supported the competing bill rather than the one passed by the Knesset. Had the alternative government-sponsored bill passed, Deri could have claimed some of the credit, say Geshet sources.

Ministry to regulate child modeling

By SHI DAVIDI

A Labor and Social Affairs Ministry committee is working on regulations that will make it legal for children under 15 to be models on runways and in commercials.

These regulations will bind employers to strict guidelines regarding pay, hours of work and use of children, according to ministry spokesman Nachum Ido.

"There is a need for regulations following the Knesset's decision," said Ido. "In order for employees to use children according to the law, they will have to come to us and get permission, a license. For a child to work, we have to make sure they will have time to study, that they will not be abused. The

employer must sign something."

Before it recessed for the summer, the Knesset passed an amendment to the Child Labor Law, prohibiting employment of youngsters under 15, except with permission from the Labor and Social Affairs minister.

Companies who have used child models in the past have done so illegally, but have only been prosecuted when mistreatment of children has been reported, according to Ido.

"With regulations, we will be able to prosecute companies acting illegally," he said.

The committee is made up of ministry employees, Dr. Yitzhak Kadman, Head of the National Council for the Child and social

workers.

The committee is basing the regulations on the model that allows children to appear on TV and stage.

"Nothing has been decided yet," said Kadman. "But we are looking at having children get permission from their principal so their studies will not suffer, permission from their doctor so that their health will not be affected, and parental consent. The hours will be limited, and no work at night."

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai is to see the final draft by the beginning of December and the ministry hopes to get Knesset approval in time for the laws to take effect January 1, 1999.



Activists from Meretz and other groups protest yesterday against plans for a haredi community center in Tel Aviv's Ramat Aviv Gimmel neighborhood (Israel Sun)

Meretz joins effort to thwart TA haredi center

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Meretz yesterday joined the residents of Ramat Aviv Gimmel in opposing a plan to build a haredi center in the heart of the secular neighborhood.

"We won't let haredim install themselves in the middle of a secular neighborhood and disrupt its way of life," Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said yesterday in advance of a demonstration by party activists at the site.

The City of Culture and Freedom and the Am Hofshi (Free Nation) movement have launched a public campaign against the planned haredi center.

The Tel Aviv municipality allocated a lot in the center of the prestigious north Tel Aviv neighborhood to the haredi organization Beit Hachinukh Mekor Haim, for the purpose of building a religious community center providing a variety of religious services.

The residents of Ramat Aviv are furious

and regard the plan as a haredi take over of public land, with the city's help. They accuse the municipality of religious coercion.

Dan Darin, a mayoral candidate who heads the city's engineering administration, said the religious residents have rights too, and should not be concentrated in ghettos determined by the availability of religious services. Religious people, he said, have a right to religious services, without damaging the area's secular character.

MKs almost come to blows over Umm el-Fahm

By LIAT COLLINS

IDF bases from Judea and Samaria might be relocated on the agricultural land expropriated from Umm el-Fahm, Lt.-Col. Arye Lev, head of the IDF's infrastructure branch, told the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday.

He was talking in a meeting

about the recent riots in Umm el-Fahm sparked by the expropriation.

The meeting later descended into an uproar, during which Arab MKs hurled insults at Jewish MKs and nearly came to blows with them. Eventually, committee chairman Micha Goldmann (Labor) ordered Azmi Bishara (Hadash) to be removed from the room.

Among the epithets Bishara shouted at Nissan Slomiansky (National Religious Party) and Benny Elon (Moledet) were "Nazi demagogue," "fascist," "racist," "madman," and "Goebbels."

Slomiansky had angered Bishara with a comment, "Isn't Umm el-Fahm part of the State of Israel?"

The exchange started when

Benzi Seol, commander of the

Border Police in the North, who

had been present during the riots,

was questioned by left-wing MKs.

Elon came to Seol's defense, asking why an officer was being forced to apologize for doing his job.

Seol said Border Police had decided to approach a local school when Molotov cocktails were thrown from it and, in his words, "I had stopped functioning as an educational institution. He also said that some Arab MKs had incited the local residents against the security forces, but he would not name names."

Another incident occurred when an IDF officer invited to the debate tried to confiscate a bullet from Rafik Haj Yihye (Labor), who claimed it proves that live ammunition had been used. Eventually Goldmann took the bullet which, it turned out, had never been fired.

Residents from the town, including a youth who had been wounded, were present for the debate.

Both the Arab MKs and right-wing Jewish MKs were united in their objections to the plans to move the bases. Slomiansky said the decision amounts to abandoning the security of the Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria. Hashem Mahmeed (Hadash) warned that the riots could be reignited if the bases are moved to Umm el-Fahm.

Goldmann asked Eli Cohen, an aide to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, to resume intensive talks to try to find a formula to restore peace in the area.

He also criticized Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who is responsible for Arab affairs, and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy for not visiting Umm el-Fahm at the height of the crisis and for "ignoring the distress of the Arabs."

Mofaz: Golan exercise unrelated to Syria

By DAVID RUDGE

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz observed an Armored Corps exercise on the Golan Heights yesterday morning.

Mofaz, accompanied by OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi and other senior officers, stressed that it was a routine exercise that was part of the

IDF's normal preparations.

"It has no connection with anything else," Mofaz told reporters in response to questions about the present tension between Turkey and Syria over the latter's support for Kurdish rebels.

He made it clear that the exercise had been planned in advance and had gone ahead as scheduled.

He also said the present state of alert would continue, although

there is likely to be a reassessment following the conclusion of the Wye Plantation talks.

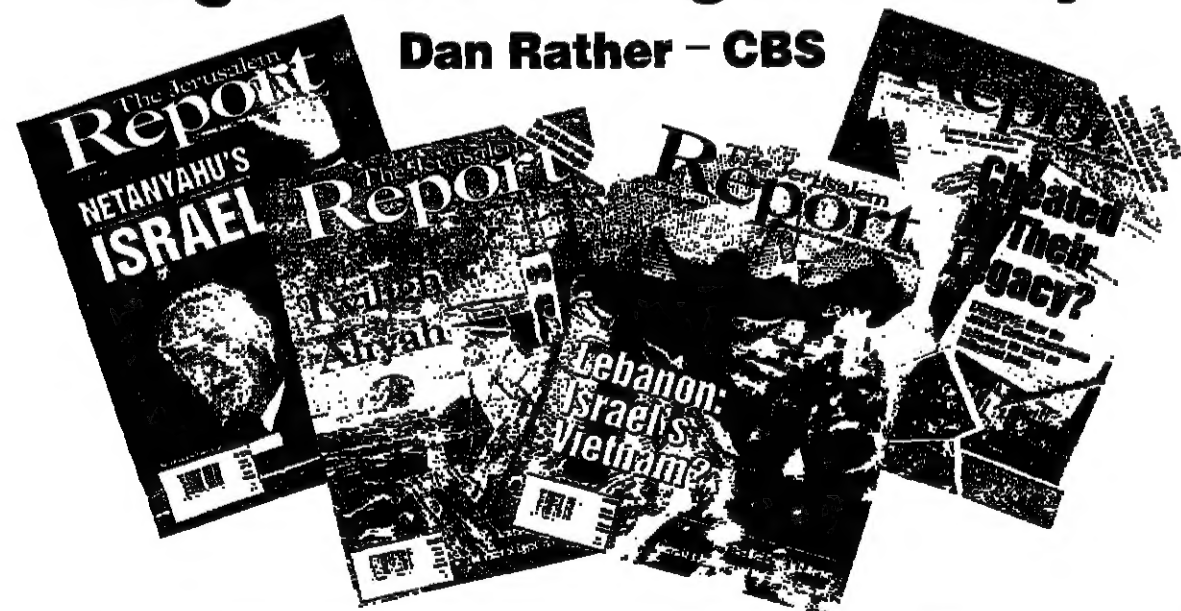
He stressed that it is impossible to hermetically seal the Green Line, especially in the case of a lone terrorist.

"Part of our ability to prevent such incidents depends on the IDF's capabilities and partly on the Palestinian Authority," he said.

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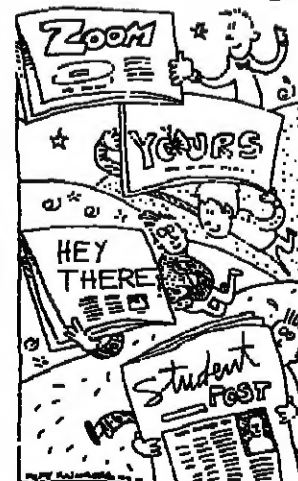
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Hospitals delay plans to go on emergency footing

By JUDY SIEGEL

The government last night won a last-minute postponement — for a month — of plans by directors of government and voluntary hospitals to adopt an emergency schedule until further notice. The severely reduced schedule was supposed to have begun today, but now the hospitals will function normally — at least until the NIS 100 million promised by the Treasury runs out.

The hospital directors said the Treasury had decided to transfer NIS 100 million to the institutions to cover the cost of drugs and vital equipment, but they voiced their "protest over the lack of seriousness" in which the government is dealing with their financial problems.

The health funds owe the public hospitals over NIS 600 million, and the insurers are themselves owed about the same amount in state allocations. As a result, the hospitals owe large sums to the banks. Those owned

by voluntary organizations (Hadassah-University hospitals, Shaare Zedek, Bikur Holim, and Laniado) — which pay salaries out of their income — are in especially desperate straits.

The hospital directors, who postponed plans to cancel non-emergency surgery and close down outpatient clinics, said the infusion of funds was only like giving "oxygen" in an emergency, but was not a solution to their financial problems.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza dealt with the crisis by telephone yesterday, as he spent the day in Eilat touring Josephthal Hospital with eight of his aides.

It was the second time in a month that the Treasury decided to give a temporary financial transfusion to the hospitals.

The institutions were due to severely reduce services before Succot, but after getting NIS 125 million, they promised to postpone their action until after the holiday.

Levy, students meet today in bid to avert strike

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy plans to meet leaders of the National Union of Israeli Students this afternoon in an effort to forge an agreement to prevent a student boycott of classes.

The strike is set to spread to all higher education institutions on Sunday. Classes have already begun at some institutions of higher learning. Meanwhile, senior academic staff at the nation's universities are considering striking over what they claim are the Treasury's ongoing delays in negotiating a wage agreement. Staffers are to meet in the coming days to decide what type of protest action to take.

Levy himself yesterday said that he supports the students' struggle to reduce tuition, but opposes their intention to strike. The creation of more diverse opportunities for higher education in Israel has given more people the chance to study, and now only the expense is deterring some from doing so, the minister noted.

Speaking at the Knesset Education Committee, Levy said he met recently with student representatives and proposed a mechanism for finding a solution to the tuition problem. "However, the students have taken the strike path, and it's difficult right now to get them off of it," Levy said.

The committee's chairman, Emanuel Zissmann, has expressed support for a strike. Zissmann will meet with student leaders today to see if student demands can be met without the strike. He plans to raise the matter with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu upon his return from the US.

National Union of Israeli Students leader Limor Rothbart said the students had agreed to meet with Levy, "and we'll see if we can make any progress and if there are any new offers to halt the current crisis. We'll be happy if there are some new proposals."

Rothbart said he welcomed calls for a new system of loans for students, "but this isn't the revolution we want. We want money to come from the Treasury into the higher education system...to improve services to the students, to reduce tuition and so there can be loans for the students' studies, not just for their living expenses."

The strike tomorrow is set to affect Beit Berl, the Lewinsky Institute, the Kibbutz Seminar, the Wingate Institute, the Technion and the college in Ramat Gan.

Rothbart refused to divulge any details about what is planned for tomorrow's demonstrations. "There will be something on every campus," he said.

Regarding the potential strike of senior academic staff, Prof. Amos Kozmink, chairman of the coordinating council of senior academic staff at the universities, said the previous wage agreement expired at the beginning of 1997.

"The continuing employment of senior staff at the universities without a wage agreement is intolerable," he told 10m. Staff members plan to meet today at Haifa University and the Technion and tomorrow at Tel Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University and Ben-Gurion University to consider their next moves.

NEWS in brief

Cigarette prices up today

The price of a pack of imported cigarettes goes up 11 percent today, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yesterday. The increase is the result of the depreciation of the shekel against the dollar.

A pack of Kent, Marlboro, or Parliament will now cost NIS 13, while Lucky Strike goes up to NIS 10. David Zev Harris

Israeli doctors barred from Qatar conference

Israeli doctors have been barred from participating in a medical conference to be held in Qatar in December, an organizer said yesterday.

A team of three Israeli doctors had expressed interest in attending the conference of bone specialists but was rejected, said Nasser Abdullah Subeie, the conference organizer. He did not give a reason but the decision was apparently political.

Qatar froze fledgling relations with Israel because of stalled peace talks and has not accepted any Israeli delegations since an economic conference last November. AP

New license plates with flag optional

Car buyers will soon have the option of choosing a new license plate bearing the Israeli flag and markings that cannot be forged. The new plates, approved by the Knesset Economic Committee yesterday, will be available in about three weeks and will not be mandatory, said Transport Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia.

The new plates, likely to cost no more than NIS 85, will have special markings designating where it was produced and a reflective coating that cannot be forged.

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom, who suggested the new plates, believes they will cut down forgeries and deter car thefts. Shi Davidi

English specialists join Masada restoration work

A team of English specialists has joined restoration work atop Masada aimed at strengthening the northern palace's base using only Herodian materials.

The seven English specialists, headed by Prof. John Ashurst, a restoration architect and soft-rock expert, joined Nature Protection and National Parks Authority workers trying to fix the damage caused by the Negev's wind, sand, water and salt.

Masada's northern palace sits upon the edge of the high cliff, overlooking a chasm making it especially vulnerable to eroding forces. Built from soft limestone on a dolomite base, there are several cracks and gaps in the both the base and the walls, while other sections have been hollowed out by strong winds. Some sections have already collapsed while others are on the verge. Shi Davidi

'Jewish history neglected in Czech schools'

Nine years after the demise of Communism, Jewish history and culture are still taught inadequately in Czech schools, the American Jewish Committee said in Prague yesterday.

The Treatment of Jewish Themes in Czech Schools was the second in a series of reports prepared for the committee's Central and East European Curriculum Review Project that focuses on countries that have recently emerged from Communist rule. The first report dealt with Poland.

According to the report, Czech textbooks devote less attention to Judaism than to other religions, as Judaism is generally included under Christianity in the curricula. The legacy of Jewish monotheism is neglected and Judaism as a living religion today is completely ignored, the report said. AP

Dell: Pupils can campaign only after school

Young people's involvement in the upcoming local elections is welcome, provided it comes after school hours and outside the school, Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell said yesterday, in response to questions about the matter.

Such participation can complement what pupils learn about the democratic process, Dell said, but this must take place outside school and after school hours, in accordance with the law.

He pointed out that workers in the educational system are barred from participating in the campaigns as either candidates or activists and called on principals to prevent electioneering in the schools. Aryeh Dean Cohen

Knesset panel to push for free nursery schools

A bill to provide free nursery schools for three- and four-year-old children is to be presented by the Knesset Education Committee, it decided yesterday.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy told the committee he had presented the cabinet with a plan for such an arrangement.

He added that the ministry's budget for 1999 was not cut as some thought; rather, some of its goals were altered. Levy said that 1,815 new classrooms would be built in 1999, along with 150 gyms, and air conditioning will be installed in the classrooms. Another NIS 70 million was added to the budget for special education, he said.

The committee also decided to set up a panel including parents and teachers representatives to look into parents' school payments. Aryeh Dean Cohen



International Senior Citizens Day

Michael Kartojanski (left), 78, shows MK Rafi Elul some of the handicrafts he has produced, during a break in a seminar yesterday at Tel Aviv University marking International Senior Citizens Day. (Israel Sun)

Knesset panel discusses problems in Na'aleh program

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Young adults from the former Soviet Union who were initially accepted, then later rejected by the Education Ministry's Na'aleh program are in great distress, some "on the verge of suicide," according to Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal.

Blumenthal said Liaison Office officials in Russia told her that the criteria used to determine how the youngsters are chosen for the program, aimed at pre-university youngsters who often come here in advance of their parents, had been stiffened, resulting in 300-400 of the 1,500 applicants being turned down this year, compared to just a handful of rejections until now.

"It would be better for the program to be closed down completely," Blumenthal, who returned from Russia yesterday, said.

The program brings 10th-graders here for a three-year program culminating in a matriculation certificate. The pupils come as tourists, but are encouraged to become immigrants, with the hope that their parents will follow.

MK Ophir Pines, who accompanied Blumenthal, said that what is going on with the program "is a crime," and that it is no longer

being run according to the Law of Return. He said there are even cases where youngsters whose fathers are Jewish are being turned down for the program.

However, Yohanan Ben-Yaacov, of the Education Ministry, who was one of the founders of the program and oversees it, vehemently denied the figures, although he admitted there are "certain other problems" with the program.

"We have no such figures in the Education Ministry," he said, adding that when there were complaints from the Jewish Agency regarding cases in which youngsters were given late notice of their rejection, the minister himself examined each case individually.

MK Shmuel Halpert (United Torah Judaism) sounded encouraged by the reports of stricter criteria, and warned that the continued entry of so many non-Jews would turn the country into "a binational state." He cited Central Bureau of Statistics figures indicating that only 53.6% of the immigrants from the former Soviet Union last year were Jews. Blumenthal called for a detailed meeting on the Na'aleh issue, saying that the committee "will not stand idly by" if the reports she and Pines heard in Moscow are correct.

Edelstein: 15% fewer ex-Soviet immigrants

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Through the year ending in September 1998, 40,700 new immigrants have arrived here from the former Soviet Union, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein said yesterday, noting this represents a drop of about 15% from the preceding year.

In the smaller independent republics the drop has been about 30%, Edelstein said, but this is attributable to the fact that the

potential for immigration from these areas has largely been realized. Edelstein was reporting to the Knesset Absorption Committee on his ministry's achievements this year, and on its preparations for a possible increase in immigration from Russia and the republics due to the economic crisis there. The age of the immigrants is continuing to drop, with 67% of those arriving this year 44 years old or younger, according to ministry data.

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Justice stalks Pinochet

No one represents the dark days of democracy in Latin America better than Gen. Augusto Pinochet. Nobody so epitomizes the wounds still unhealed, the victims still without answers.

The arrest of the general in London on a Spanish extradition request has brought out the old antagonisms between the Latin Left, who despise him as a murderer, and the Chilean Right, who have made a hero of him because they liked his economic policies.

Latin America has until this decade spawned more theorists on revolution and more revolutionaries than any comparable area on earth. It produced few successful revolutions. The revolutionaries were mostly either naive intellectuals, arrogant fools, Cold War stooges or ignorant peasants.

The counter-revolutionaries, on the other hand, have been mostly government-run, American funded and brutally criminal.

Complicit democracy

The revolutionaries' dreams of luring national armies into hills and swamps where they would be destroyed by popular people's militias were a joke. There were few set-piece battles, and the governments under attack chose their own weapons and tactics: intelligence information, agents provocateur, bribery and betrayal. When these failed to deliver enough results, there was intimidation, torture, forced confessions, terrorism against families and villages, and disappearances.

Latin American dictatorships proved remarkably impervious to world disgust over their torture states, death squads and vigilantism. Their shield was tacit US complicity based on Washington's anti-Red paranoia.

Having said there were few successful revolutions, it is odd to consider that there was one in Chile. A democratically elected government was overthrown by force with the collusion of a foreign superpower.

The oddness came from the role of the left. The left wingers of Salvador Allende's government were elected; the revolutionaries were right-wing state military, the scene was set by the chaos of a CIA-funded truck strike.

Operatic Latin American generals in kitschy uniforms had been a universal joke for a century or more, but not regarding Chile. True, Chile in 1817 got its first supreme dictator, Bernardo O'Higgins, shortly after he and Jose de San Martin achieved national independence, but O'Higgins's main concerns were social and economic reforms for the poor.

Divine power

By the time Allende came to power, Chile could boast that as a balanced, pluralistic and mainly democratic state, it was a fine example of a Latin nation free of the Latin coup-and-revolution disease.

Gen. Pinochet's surprise murderous attack on the presidential palace on September 11, 1973, in which Allende died three weeks after appointing Pinochet commander-in-chief, opened a new era. Chile now would take its shameful place alongside Argentina and Guatemala for the infamy of its human-rights violations and the brutality of its dictator.

Pinochet's regime was peppered with quotes that exposed the vicious realities and hypocrisies of his time — as in the famous American one: "He may be a son-of-a-bitch, but he's our son-of-a-bitch."

Pinochet famously said "Not a leaf stirs in Chile unless I know it," outraging Christians by stealing an attribute of God from the New Testament: "Not a sparrow falls, but He knows of it."

Those who regarded him as their SOB have shown strange reluctance to share responsibility for the crimes of their SOB. The leaves that fell in Pinochet's forest were all too human — the civilian government that came to power following Pinochet's retirement in 1990 reported that more than 3,000 people had been murdered and 1,000 "disappeared" without a trace under Pinochet.

He had supporters of Allende hunted down at home and abroad. Parents were tortured in front of their children. Electric shocks, torn-out fingernails, choking with plastic bags and sexual abuse were routine interrogation methods.

Blood deal

A British woman doctor who went to Chile to treat torture victims was arrested and tortured. Pinochet's own predecessor as army chief was murdered in Buenos Aires, an exiled Allende official was blown up in a Washington car bomb.

When he left reluctantly in 1988 after disastrously losing a show-case plebiscite he was sure he would win, Pinochet cut himself a number of deals, such as remaining army chief, becoming senator for life and keeping a diplomatic passport. The deals virtually wrote his immunity into the constitution.

However, a team from the Spanish judiciary has been quietly investigating the cases of scores of Spanish citizens who were murdered, tortured or who disappeared during the Pinochet years. Pinochet has been in and out of Britain many times since his retirement, but the change in government there has brought a change in attitude to the likes of Pinochet, and Spain won a prompt response to its request to hold him.

His supposed diplomatic status remains a tricky hurdle for the precedent-conscious British, but Spain regards it as a fig leaf for a former coup leader who may be guilty of genocide.

"History teaches you that dictators never end up well." That quote was attributed to Pinochet himself in a recent interview in the New Yorker. We wish, and what a pity for their victims that it seems to take so long.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN

WASHINGTON — When US President Bill Clinton's mother, Virginia Kelley, was dying of breast cancer nearly five years ago, she avoided telling friends, instead maintaining a sunny-side-up disposition that had served her well through a lifetime of adversity.

"She never told anyone she was dying. Obviously she knew," recalled Thomas Caplan, a novelist who was close both to Kelley and her son Bill.

"It was so classy in a way. She was never going to admit defeat and never going to give up."

As Kelley's older son faces his most perilous challenge in a career full of near-death political experiences, Caplan and other intimates of the president said they see more than a little of her in him as he confronts public humiliation and political attacks.

Widowed three times — including once while pregnant with the future president — Kelley raised two boys while living with an abusive husband and suffered from recurring breast cancer. Yet she approached each day with her eyebrows painted on, her false eyelashes glued in place and her zest for life and optimism intact.

"She's the root of all this," said Caplan, who was Clinton's roommate at Georgetown University and still sees him frequently.

As Congress proceeds with its impeachment inquiry, Clinton seems to be borrowing his mother's prescription for dealing with difficulties: Don't judge yourself too harshly. Accentuate the positive. Empathize with others. Focus on their problems instead of your own. Live with gusto.

"I knew Virginia well," said Thomas McLarty, a boyhood friend of Clinton and his first White House chief of staff. "Clearly she faced a lot of adversity in her life. But she chose to dwell on the good things, the positive things."

"She had a resilience about her. Whether it was passed on to him genetically or by example, the president inherited it."

KELLEY's example may be the key to Clinton's iron-stomach approach to the public examination of his private behavior. But the confidence he displays, his self-assurance about overcoming this latest ordeal, also owes something to his history of prevailing over troubles.

After losing his first re-election bid for Arkansas governor in 1980, Clinton repackaged himself, campaigned incessantly and two years later won the first of five straight elections.

After an intense battery of attacks on his character — from allegations of draft dodging to infidelity — in the 1992 campaign, he won the keys to the White House.

And when the Republican revolution took over both houses of Congress in 1994 and its leaders called him irrelevant, Clinton reconstructed his presidency and became the first Democrat since Franklin D. Roosevelt to be reelected.

Along the way, he has developed

Mother knew best

According to his intimates, Clinton is drawing on lessons he learned from his resilient and optimistic mom as he confronts public humiliation and political attacks



Clinton's mother — and his life — have taught him that adversity 'inspires us to action.... It gives us steel and determination.'

some survival techniques that his mother did not teach him. Chief among them are righteous anger, which has helped fuel his battle-ready posture in combating independent counsel Kenneth Starr, and keen political acumen, which has helped him see a way out of this and other difficulties.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton also has played a key role in steeling him.

The Clintons "think they are doing good for the country. They feel that in their core," said Harold M. Ickes, Clinton's former deputy chief of staff, explaining why Clinton never will resign.

"That's reason No. 1. Reason No. 2 is they think this has been an unmitigated, totally politically driven witch hunt. They're not prepared to capitulate and let Starr be the victor."

Advisers who have spent a lot of time with Clinton since January, when the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, agree that, after an initial rocky period, the president has been uncannily serene.

"I can't say what's going on internally, but I can say, from being around him a great deal for the last 10 months, he's been upbeat and positive," said Doug Sosnik, the senior adviser who is at Clinton's side whenever he is out of the White House.

"Different people react differently to adversity. Some people shrink, others rise. He rises. It's like game day every day."

As if following Kelley's formula, he plays hearts with aides on Air Force One to relax. He tunes out congressional debates on his impeachment and focuses on policy battles. He comes away from shaking hands with citizens along a rope line with a satisfied glow in his eyes. And he gets a charge out of helping people.

CLINTON'S stepfather, Roger Clinton, drunkenly beat his mother periodically. But mother and son did not dwell on family problems when they went to work or school. Both worked hard and played hard and told very few people about their family troubles.

Kelley divorced Roger Clinton because of his alcoholic abuse, then took him back after three months because she felt sorry for him. She weaned her mother from a morphine addiction and stood by her younger son, also named Roger, when he was jailed on drug-trafficking charges. She celebrated his release.

"She was like a rubber ball," the Rev. John P. Miles said at her burial. "The harder life put her down, the higher she bounced."

Bill Clinton testified against his stepfather at the divorce trial but respected his mother's decision to take him back and even legally changed his last name to Clinton on his own initiative. Both before and after the divorce, he interceded to stop his stepfather's battering of his mother.

Kelley spent Christmas 1993 in the White House. Because chemotherapy had caused her to lose hair, she wore a dark wig with her signature gray streak in the front.

She talked enthusiastically about going to hear Barbra Streisand at Las Vegas' MGM Grand Hotel for New Year's Eve — not about her approaching death.

She made plans to see Caplan the next day. When he called her, the president took the phone and said

that she was busy self-administering her chemotherapy. But Kelley got on the line and cheerfully ordered Caplan to "get over here!" Caplan spent that night at the White House. In the morning, he went looking for Kelley to say good-bye.

"I said, 'Virginia, see you soon,'" said Caplan. She replied: "You know I love you."

She died January 6.

ALTHOUGH the people of Arkansas already were acquainted with Clinton's dogged determination, Clinton showed the rest of the country during the 1992 campaign that he could take an extraordinary number of punches and stay in the ring.

"There's an inner core to this guy, an inner drive that is quite extraordinary," said Ickes, who worked with Clinton on that 1992 campaign.

"I saw him up close in New Hampshire in 1992. He was on the verge of collapse. He was on the road. He didn't have the apparatus of the White House. You had Jennifer Flowers and the draft."

"It was his intellectual and physical strength, bolstered by [Mrs. Clinton's] commitment, that did it. He just weathered it through. There's an enormous reserve. It may be all narcissistic. But whatever it is, he ain't no quitter."

Then as now, he relied on Kelley's methods to face adversity. The news media hammered him on character issues. He kept talking about policy goals.

Then as now, he sought to bolster staff morale with the same maxim. "Ninety percent of life is just showing up," he told one aide recently, the same line he had used years before. "If I show up every day and do my job, we'll be OK."

Clinton grudgingly acknowledged to supporters at a Texas fundraiser that "adversity is our friend. It's a harsh teacher sometimes and I hate it." But his mother and his life have also taught him that adversity "inspires us to action.... It gives us steel and determination."

(Los Angeles Times)

If the New Hampshire primary were held today....

If the all-important New Hampshire primary were held today, Texas Governor George W. Bush would get the nod, but retired Gen. Colin L. Powell and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander wouldn't be too far behind on the Republican side.

Of course, the election is still more than two years away. And Powell is a wild card, since he hasn't given any indication that he plans to run.

"If you take Powell out, Bush goes up," said Don Simonetta, director of the University of New Hampshire Survey Center, which

conducted the poll.

In the poll, Bush finished with 20 percent, Powell with 19% and Alexander with 17%. None of 10 other potential Republican candidates received more than 7%.

The poll was particularly good news for Alexander, who finished in single digits in a recent Mason-Dixon poll in that other political bellwether, Iowa.

On the flip side, Malcolm S. Forbes ran second to Bush in the Iowa poll, but finished in single digits in the New Hampshire poll.

Alexander's office complained at the time that the Iowa sample

was too small to be accurate. But his people were thrilled about the New Hampshire poll, which was about as likely: 169 likely Republicans and Republican-leaning independent voters.

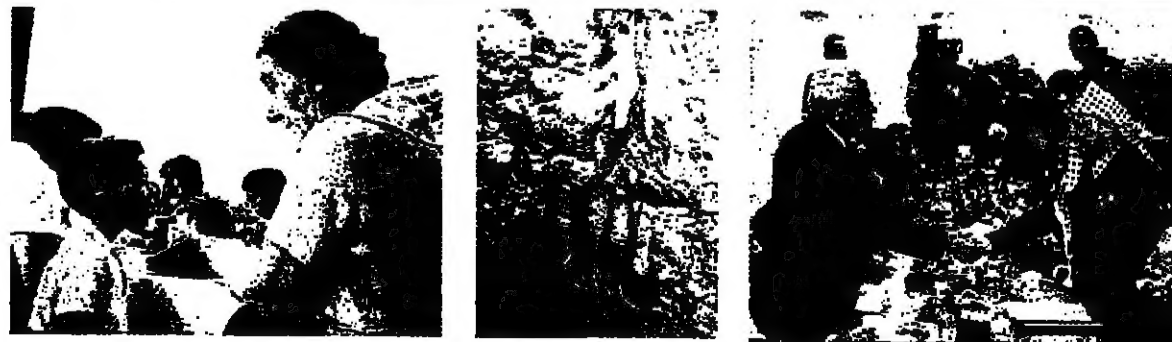
On the Democratic side, Vice President Al Gore was the runaway winner with 50% of the vote. Former senator Bill Bradley had 8%. Sen. John F. Kerry, Massachusetts, had 7%. House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, Missouri, had 6%.

The sample was of 162 likely Democratic and Democratic-leaning independents.

(The Washington Post)

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700 dead in Nigerian pipeline fire

WARRI, Nigeria (Reuters) - The death toll from the pipeline inferno in southern Nigeria rose to at least 700 yesterday as more people died from their injuries, hospital sources said.

"More than 200 injured people have died in the past 24 hours according to reports from various hospitals in the area," an official of the Delta State health management service in the oil town of Warri told Reuters.

But she said the death toll had likely peaked as most of those still in hospital were expected to survive.

No official death toll has been issued but local media have said the blaze, which engulfed hundreds of people scavenging for petrol from a burst pipeline, may have claimed more than 1,000 lives.

International relief agencies, including the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World

Health Organization (WHO), have sent emergency medical aid for the hundreds of survivors.

Hundreds of bodies charred beyond recognition have been buried in mass graves near Warri. The graves are beside the pipeline which spewed petrol for three days, drew a crowd of thousands to harvest the gushing fuel, then exploded in flames.

Many of the victims were women and children who flocked with scoops, cans and pans to collect and sell the fuel.

Scores were roasted in a concrete ditch where a pool of petrol had collected. A patch of land the size of a soccer pitch was charred by the fire.

The state-owned Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) believes the line was deliberately broken - a common crime in an oil-rich country where fuel is often in short supply and many communities resent the government and foreign oil

companies. Military ruler General Abdulsalami Abubakar, who visited the scene of the disaster on Monday, said yesterday the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) had been directed to investigate.

"NNPC is presently looking into the matter and will report back to the government," Abubakar told reporters in the capital Abuja.

The Daily Times newspaper quoted Abubakar as saying the government would not provide relief to the families of the dead.

"I want to state very clearly that there is no relief to the families of the victims by the government. What we would do on humanitarian grounds is to pick up the hospital bills of the injured," the paper quoted Abubakar as saying.

Thick, black smoke continued to billow

from the fire, which was now restricted to breach of the pipeline. Company officials said they expected the fire to burn out as the flow through the pipeline had been shut off.

With the pipeline shut, parts of the north and most of the southwest of the country fed from the refinery in Warri have been cut off from fuel supplies.

"The fire has to burn out first before we can effect any repairs and until the line is repaired we have to be ready for tough times," a PPMC official said.

In many parts of western Nigeria, including the biggest city Lagos, queues have lengthened at petrol stations and motorists said dealers were hoarding stocks.

"The price of petrol has risen from 2,500 naira (NIS 125) for 50 liters on Sunday to 4,000 naira and above today in the black market," Lagos motorist Yinka Akinbosun told Reuters. "And that is where you're lucky to find fuel at all."

Microsoft: All activities were legal

WASHINGTON (AP) - Microsoft Corp. portrayed itself yesterday as an aggressive but legal competitor when it entered the important market for Internet software then dominated by rival Netscape Communications Corp.

Microsoft lawyer John Warden, noting that "antitrust laws are not a code of civility," said the company's efforts to gain a foothold in the competitive market for Internet software were all legal.

The US government has said Microsoft entered into contracts requiring Internet providers to distribute Microsoft's browser, rather than Netscape's, to as many as 75 percent of customers.

In exchange, those providers were listed among suggested services within Windows.

"Netscape had what the government would consider a monopoly in the market for Internet browsers, until the great Satan, Microsoft, came along," Warden said.

But Warden, saying Microsoft's share of the browser market was less than 10 percent at the time, called those contracts "not only completely unobjectionable but pro-competitive." They are relatively common types of contracts in other industries, he said.

A browser is software that allows computer users to view information on the Internet.

Warden also argued that an alleged Microsoft offer during a June 1995 meeting to divide the Internet software market with Netscape never happened.

Warden called it either a "fantasy" that arose from the naïveté of a Netscape executive, or a Netscape fabrication to gain the government's protection in the marketplace.

"The evidence will show it was either one or the other," Warden said. "There was no proposal by Microsoft that Netscape cease development of an Internet software browser for Windows 95."



Social Democrat Chancellor-elect Gerhard Schröder (left), shares a laugh with Greens party faction leader and future foreign minister Joschka Fischer. (AP)

Schröder seals pact with Greens

BOON (Reuters) - German Chancellor-elect Gerhard Schröder sealed a coalition pact with the Greens yesterday, giving the new government's top priority.

Schröder, a Social Democrat, and Green party leader Joschka Fischer signed the agreement that will give Germany its first center-left administration in 16 years.

In a separate development, Schröder was reportedly planning to meet bank and industry leaders tomorrow to discuss proposals for a joint fund to compensate Nazi-era slave laborers.

There are about two to three million former slave labor survivors, whose claims were never met due to a legal loophole in post-war international treaties. Most live in Russia and the former Eastern bloc.

"There is no concrete agreement, but we do want to do something on this issue with

industry," Schröder said. "We want to be helpful to German industry, which has a historical obligation in this matter but also has a claim on protection from legal action."

Schröder, who toppled conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl in a general election three weeks ago and is due to take office on October 27, said he would concentrate on fighting unemployment of four million and rebuilding the former communist east.

But he sought to stamp his authority on the government which contains powerful SPD party chairman Oskar Lafontaine as finance minister.

"The chancellor does everything," Schröder told a news conference when asked if he would be involved in foreign and finance policy.

Lafontaine, who is to the left of Schröder, has expanded his portfolio, grabbing powers from the Economics Ministry. This prompted

Schröder's nominee for the economics post, businessman Jörg Stollmann, to turn down the job on Monday.

Schröder had brought in the computer millionaire and free market champion to appeal to middle of the road voters.

Schröder said an "Alliance for Jobs," a round table forum of employers, trade unions and government, would be the centerpiece of his administration.

"The alliance for jobs and rebuilding the east are the two areas to which I will dedicate myself," Schröder said. "But I'll have scope for other things," he added.

"Since Germany will chair the G7 next year, we will push to ensure that global economic issues are at the center of our work," he said, referring to the Group of Seven Western industrialized countries. Germany also takes over the rotating presidency of the European Union in January.

Turkey: Talks with Syria positive

ANKARA (AP) - Turkish Defense Minister Ismet Sezgin yesterday described as "positive" the security talks between Turkish and Syrian officials, but indicated he wants to see a crackdown by Damascus on Kurdish rebels.

Officials from both countries met for a second day to address Ankara's claims that Syria is sheltering rebels.

The Foreign Ministry said that "security talks are continuing and have not reached a conclusion." It said Foreign Minister Ismail Cem would hold a meeting last night with other officials "to assess the direction the meetings were taking." Turkey called the talks the last chance for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"There are some very positive results. These results will be put on paper," Sezgin told reporters. "But this is not enough. Care must be taken in the application of the results. We have to verify that our Syrian friends and neighbors are acting in line with the agreement they have made."

Just what might have been agreed upon wasn't immediately revealed.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency said Turkey wanted a way to verify if Syria has halted alleged support for the rebels.

Relations between the two neighbors deteriorated sharply in recent weeks after Turkey suggested it might take military action against Syria if it failed to end alleged support to the rebels which launch cross-border attacks on Turkey.

Despite Sezgin's remarks, Ankara moved several tanks and armored personnel carriers to the Turkish-Syrian border in preparation for exercises planned for the first week of November, private NTV news channel reported.

The exercises are seen as Turkey's display of military prowess in a sharp warning to Syria.

Fears of a regional conflict have led to various mediation attempts by Egypt and Iran. Officials tried to keep the venue for the security talks

secret, but Turkish media reported the meetings were held in the southern town of Sycian, some 550 km. south of Ankara.

Turkish officials were looking for proof that Syria is closing down alleged Kurdish rebel camps in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Another accusation Turkey directed against Syria was that it was harboring rebel Kurd leader Abdullah Ocalan.

However, Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said yesterday that Ocalan has been hiding out for the last few days in a Moscow suburb and that Turkey has requested his extradition.

Analysts believe that Turkey may resort to pinpoint attacks on rebel targets in Syria or Syrian-controlled Lebanon if the security talks fail.

"We have made the necessary steps," Yilmaz told reporters without elaborating.

Close to 37,000 people have died since 1984 when the rebels launched a war for autonomy in Turkey's southeast.

Holocaust mudslinging in NY Senate race

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - In the dead-heat, mud-slinging race for the New York Senate seat, Democratic challenger Charles Schumer accused Sen. Al D'Amato of a "shameful" political use of the Holocaust.

Schumer, a liberal congressman from Brooklyn, is opposing D'Amato in what is said to be the closest Senate race, and the Jews have the pivotal ethnic vote. The campaigns have been aggressive, nasty, and heavy with charges that the candidates lie.

"I'm proud to have been there fighting every day, making a difference for justice for those who have been stonewalled," D'Amato said earlier this week, standing with a dozen Holocaust survivors at a Holocaust commemorative wall in Manhattan. "My opponent... does not care... He's not there on the battlefield because he was too busy attempting to [further] his own political career."

Standing at his side was Alice Fischer, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen, who praised D'Amato and

also attacked Schumer for voting against authorizing president George Bush to use force against Saddam Hussein in 1991.

D'Amato, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, had threatened to block Swiss banking activities in the US unless the Swiss banks reached an agreement to resolve Holocaust-era accounts. In August, the two main Swiss banks, Credit Suisse and UBS, announced a \$1.25 billion settlement.

Although Jews comprise less than 10 percent of the New York State voters, they are the swing ethnic voting bloc because of their consistently high voter turnout. While Manhattan Jewish voters are overwhelmingly Democratic, the Orthodox enclaves in Brooklyn form strong bases for D'Amato. In the election six years ago, he got roughly 40 percent of the Jewish vote.

Schumer lambasted D'Amato for staging a news conference in which Holocaust survivors attacked him, a Jewish politician.

"I think it's a shame that Al D'Amato would stoop to using the

Holocaust for political purposes," he said. "My record on Holocaust, on Jewish issues, is second to none. And I think this is, just, it shows what kind of man he is... No one in Washington, no one in New York, no major Jewish leader doubts my commitment to the Holocaust and to Jewish issues."

Leaping to Schumer's aid was New York City Controller Alan Hevesi. "I am really angry about this," he said. "Using the Holocaust for political purposes trivializes the Holocaust. That's a disgrace. You don't use it for political advantage

against a Jewish leader who has been right on every issue that is pertinent to the Jewish community."

However, that was an ironic twist. With a plan that meshed smoothly with and benefited from D'Amato's offensive against the Swiss banks, Hevesi led a month-long campaign by American state and local finance officers to impose sanctions on Swiss banks. Many of those officials are elected, and found the Holocaust to be a savvy issue in forging ties with their local Jewish communities.

DOOMSDAY

Continued from Page 1

"We expect large numbers of Christian groups to begin arriving here between Pessah 1999 and Christmas 2000, with some of them hoping to see the reappearance of Jesus," Bar-Ei said. "If they arrive and have psychiatric problems, we will treat them."

He said there are three different categories for which police and hospitals have to be on the alert. One is the tourist who suffers from Jerusalem Syndrome, a disorder which he has studied for over a decade.

"These are sane persons without any history of problems, who arrive as normal tourists and develop this psychiatric reaction," Bar-Ei said. "It last a very short time, a maximum of seven days, then they return to being a regular person." This group is not considered a threat to public safety, he noted.

"The second group is people with a real psychiatric disease, who in their own country decide that they must arrive in Jerusalem. They arrive here identifying with the figures of the Bible, or with very strange thoughts about politics and especially religion.

"The third is the biggest group,

possibly pilgrims, that have some problems but are not really mentally diseased. But they have strange beliefs that they can do something in Jerusalem to provoke change in the society and the religion... we have Jews and Christians in this group. These people are not real psychiatric problems - they have not had psychiatric examinations, and only if they make problems can we conduct a real examination."

Bar-Ei said that all he can do now is "prepare the staff to be capable to cope with these problems."

Mansfield said that cult groups like the Denver group are only the beginning. "We're going to see a lot more doomsday stuff, like Heaven's Gate," he said, referring to the 39 members of the cult that committed mass suicide near San Diego in 1997.

"The apocalyptic end-of-the-world stuff is a control technique, a mechanism to maintain control over the members. I've heard lots of end-of-the-world doom-and-gloom stuff, but I haven't seen a giant mass exodus to go to Jerusalem yet, and there's more to come. Anytime you have a milestone like a millennium, you are going to have people who are on that ragged edge go way over. Whether it be a group thing or an individual thing, I think we're going to see more of this."

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WYE

Continued from Page 1

He added, however, that "some tough decisions" still have to be made. Officials said whether a deal is reached depends greatly on the outcome of the meetings among Clinton and the Palestinians and Israelis, which were to take place throughout the day yesterday.

Clinton canceled a two-day fundraising trip to California to continue his personal involvement in the talks. He has been holding a series of bilateral and intensive meetings with Netanyahu and Arafat, and is said to be extraordinarily well versed in the details.

Defense officials said that the Americans urged Defense Minister

Yitzhak Mordechai to postpone his scheduled meeting with US Secretary of Defense William Cohen so he would not have to leave the negotiations at this crucial stage.

Mordechai was to have met with Cohen yesterday. The meeting was expected to focus on the possibility of a renewed crisis with Iraq, as well as requests to maintain Israel's "qualitative edge."

But the meeting was set last week when it was expected that the summit in Wye Plantation would have been finished by yesterday. Sandy Berger, Clinton's national security adviser, urged Mordechai to delay the meeting with Cohen, saying that his presence at the talks is vital, defense sources said.

Mordechai then telephoned

Cohen and the two agreed to meet after the summit concludes.

The two were to meet a month ago in Washington, but Mordechai asked to postpone the meeting, since he was heavily involved in the defense budget debate and was also engaged in negotiations with US envoy Dennis Ross.

Speaking to reporters before Clinton departed for the talks, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said that while "there there is serious work that's going on, there are significant gaps between the parties."

Clinton, he said, "is determined and focused on helping the parties make the tough choices they need to make to move the peace process forward."

The US is still aiming to achieve

a complete agreement on the outstanding issues and does not believe that the parties are at the point where they have to settle for something less, Lockhart said.

Lockhart said the US had asked Hussein to join the negotiations, because "we believe he can play a constructive role in the process there. As you know, the king enjoys enormous respect in the region and has played an important role in the peace process."

But Lockhart would not speculate on whether Hussein will play a pivotal role in brokering a deal, saying, "I wouldn't try to read any conclusion into his arrival and his participation."

Hillel Kuttler and Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

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In Brazil, high times turn to hard times

By ANTHONY FAJOLA

RIO DE JANEIRO — A year ago, the da Silva family was full of hope.

As Brazil boomed under free-market reforms, brothers Wagner da Silva, 21, and Alessandro da Silva, 22, landed jobs in a glass factory at \$500 a month — enough to buy their mother a new stereo system. Their father was doing even better stocking shelves in a retail store.

But then, as with millions of other families in Latin America's largest nation, the global economic ax fell hard on the da Silvas, who live in an inland shantytown in this sprawling tropical metropolis.

Recent government measures to battle the crisis and protect the currency from devaluation put the brakes on the economy and sent unemployment soaring. Wagner and Alessandro were fired three months ago. Their father was laid off a month later.

Now, as the brothers spend their days in futile interviews and hours-long job lines, their mother has become the only breadwinner, earning minimum wage on a 3:30 a.m. shift cleaning hospital rooms.

As the government forced up interest rates to protect the currency, the family's payments went up on their stereo system — bought on credit extended to the

poor for the first time under Brazil's free-market reforms. This month, the family defaulted on their payments.

"The worst thing is that it's getting to us — we're fighting in the house, having arguments about things that we shouldn't be arguing about," said Alessandro da Silva as he stood in a crowded employment agency line in Rio's old downtown.

"It's also hard because, you know, well, it's always been difficult here, and we thought this time it could be different. But now I see that it's not."

Brazilian poet Vinicius de Moraes once wrote that "sadness has no end, but happiness does," and the people of this vast nation, who had been enjoying one of the most prosperous periods in their modern history until a few months ago, are coming to grips with the return of hard times.

Partly out of sheer bad luck, Brazil has joined the global economic crisis, bleeding hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign capital every day.

To prevent the economic and currency meltdowns seen in Russia, Indonesia and Thailand, the Brazilian government has prescribed bitter medicine, implementing massive spending cuts and pushing central bank interest rates to 49.75 percent. It is holding

the economy together at the cost of sending the nation into recession. More harsh news was expected yesterday, when newly reelected President Fernando Henrique Cardoso will likely announce new austerity measures to renew investor confidence in the world's ninth largest economy.

Thus far, Cardoso's hard decisions have been applauded by international economists, who have the country under a microscope for fear of what a Brazilian collapse could mean to the global economy.

But the ones paying the price now are the Brazilian people. According to government statistics, unemployment is currently at 8.2%, up from 6.3% just 12 months ago; labor unions say the figure is 18% in Brazil's largest cities.

With the hike in interest rates, defaults on consumer credit have soared as debtors are overwhelmed by higher payments on adjustable-rate loans. In Rio de Janeiro alone, almost one in five residents has defaulted on payments for cars, television sets and other consumer goods, according to the Rio Merchants Association.

"I feel disgraced — for me and my family," said Rubens da Silva, 70, a retiree who is not related to Wagner and Alessandro, after walking out of a Rio debt-restructuring office in a daze.

Da Silva had just been informed that his name had been added to the city's growing debtors' list because of his failure to meet payments on new kitchen appliances after his interest rate shot from 8% to 13% three months ago.

"Look at this," said da Silva, tears streaking his face as he took out a worn worker's I.D. card. "I was a captain in the fire department. A captain! I was always honorable. And now look at me, in shame."

"I wish I had never bought [the appliances]. It's only brought me misery. I'm a very sad man."

ALTHOUGH it is small consolation for Brazilians, this kind of economic uncertainty is hardly novel. Before Cardoso in 1994 launched his Real Plan, which fixed the local currency, the real, to the US dollar to stabilize the economy, Brazil was wracked by decades of economic volatility.

Hyperinflation was so bad that the price of goods would double in the time it took for workers to cash their paychecks. From 1983 to 1993, Brazil had no fewer than nine separate economic plans — all of which ultimately fell apart.

Before the current crisis hit, things seemed different with Cardoso, 67, whose free-market reforms have produced years of relative prosperity.

Cardoso helped make Brazil the

world's economic darling, luring more foreign investment than any developing nation except China through a series of massive privatizations.

For many Brazilians, Cardoso seemed to be the man who would finally lead the world's fifth most populous nation — made up mostly of the very poor and very rich — to unleash its vast potential.

Even now, as that dream appears to be unraveling, there are many Brazilians who cling to Cardoso's promise on national television this month that this is only "a temporary crisis." The question now is how long Brazilians will be willing to cope with a bad situation to preserve their free-market reforms.

As the economy appears to be heading for a recession in 1999, consumer demand has dried up, forcing manufacturers and retailers into layoffs or temporary firings. Unemployed workers are finding it difficult, if not impossible, to find jobs.

"The job market is very tough right now, and that's not going to change quickly," said Carla Muniz, a job analyst for a Rio employment agency.

Last October, she had 200 jobs and about 2,000 applicants to fill them. This October, her agency already has 4,000 applicants and fewer than 144 openings.

(The Washington Post)

Demanding democracy in Jakarta

Indonesian students gathered at the gates of Parliament yesterday to demand President Habibie form a transitional government and then quit before general elections next year. (AP)

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hard times

Channel 1 investigates:

Who killed little Sarah?

By BARRY DAVIS

The BBC describes its latest crime-thriller import - the new four-story (each spanning two episodes) *Silent Witness* series - as a "tough contemporary thriller."

Judging by the first offering (tonight on Channel 1 at 10:15), the epithet "contemporary" has a certain accuracy.

There's the politically correct casting of a woman (albeit in unfeminine suit) as police boss - but there are also a number of ingredients which would not appear incongruous in a typical 1970s cops-on-the-killer's-trail series.

Those who remember the popular American police series of two decades ago - *Kojak* and *Starsky & Hutch* - may recall that, for some reason, it was generally the middle- and lower-echelon guys who produced the goods. Meanwhile, their bosses' professional raison d'être seemed to be to ensure that protocol was adhered to and that their underlings did nothing too rash.

In *Silent Witness*, Detective Superintendent Harriet Farmer fills the role of the unwavering protector of police rules and regulations, while her subordinate, Detective Inspector Tom Adams (played by *Soldier Soldier* star John McGlynn) is left champing at the bit. Adams' professional plight is further exacerbated by dedicated forensic pathologist Sam Ryan - played by Amanda Burton of *Peak Practice* fame - who is driven by an uncompromising passion for "truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

The first episode features the tragic drowning of little Sarah. Ah, but did the victim really die of drowning, or is there something more sinister afoot? And what about the woman prisoner convicted of killing her child? What's she got to do with the case?

As the first part of the two-episode story progresses, Ryan and Adams' professional liaison evolves from a hate-hate relationship to one of grudging respect as the team seems to narrow in on the culprit.

But it isn't all business and the BBC wouldn't be the BBC if it didn't take the opportunity to sew a modicum of black humor into the burgeoning story line. As an orderly wheels a corpse through the pathology department singing a doleful blues number, Ryan is quick to request "something a little more lively." And Donny Osmond's 1970s hit "Puppy Love" provides the musical backdrop to a scene in which a couple of pathologists merrily remove gory bits from a corpse.

Back to the serious stuff - we are reminded that, after all, a child has died and we really



Cambridge blues: Forensic pathologist Sam Ryan (Amanda Burton) wants to uncover the 'truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth' in Channel 1's British import 'Silent Witness.'

should be doing something about it. "Children's pain isn't like ours, is it?" Ryan states, adding bitterly, "it doesn't matter." Her righteous ire is glaringly countered by the clinical approach of the seasoned detective superintendent who responds to Adams' observation that the dead girl was physically abused with the cold retort: "So are lots of kids."

Shot partly on location near Cambridge, the story line is embellished by some attractive frames of tranquil English countryside.

There's a sprinkling of the surreal as well - for instance, three forensic scientists clad in pristine white protective suits hover around Sarah's body, which is covered by a white sheet. A

medieval liturgical soundtrack conveys an almost ecclesiastical ambience to the scene.

So, did little Sarah drown? Does her mother's insubstantial-looking and generally unshaven boyfriend have anything to do with it?

All will ultimately be revealed in next week's second episode of this "Buried Lies" story.

'Rust' never sleeps

By HELEN KAYE

"I wish that I could retain this unripe, this innocence," said Avishai Hadari as we walked to the pre-performance rehearsal of *Rust*, his extraordinary first play that two days later was to win most of the top honors at the recent Acro Theater Festival.

Where most Acro Festival participants present an idea or a synopsis to the artistic committee, Hadari arrived with his director's book complete to the last movement and illustrated with precise drawings lest the slightest nuance be lost.

Rust has no plot. Its action juxtaposes distinct, often catastrophic events in our history - the Holocaust, Rabin's murder, terrorist bombings, what he perceives as religious and political incitement - and wrenches them out of context.

The play has to do with memory as a malleable entity "because terrible things are happening here. Events happen so fast that we have no time to digest them. People living here can't get a real picture over time and I wanted to show the hugeness of it. There's no logical progression, no catharsis. Climaxes in the play follow one another and are arrested by the advent of a new climax, just as in life."

The characters are a murdered politician, a dead Holocaust victim, a survivor, a victim, a huge Rasputin-like haredi and his clones, two facilitators and Hadari himself as Yigal Amir, a symbol and a real person "whom society made. That's pretty clear. Why him? Because he's someone who sits quietly amid all the racket. Something deep down is developing, simmering and it ends in a shot."

"Also, I'm there literally to keep things going, to fix things if they go wrong on stage. There's a correlation between myself the director and myself as Amir. Amir's three shots created a different reality. A small touch from me changes the situation on stage."

Hadari is thin. His bones stick out. His hair is cut close to his scalp. He wears serviceable clothes and moves with the economy of an athlete. He speaks quietly, pleasantly, and his eyes are deeply watchful. When he speaks to his actors, or touches them, the affection he bears them is palpable.

Only one of the *Rust* actors was a professional, Meir Alon who plays the huge haredi. The rest were amateurs, including two retarded actors from the Akim Theater with whom Hadari has been working for the past year, and two elderly women from a seniors group he's also been working with. That's why he held a rehearsal before each show.

That's also why he was on stage - if an actor forgot a movement or a line, he was there to retrace the wheels and keep the play



Avishai Hadari (right) stars as Yigal Amir in 'Rust.'

flowing.

"I work from the outside in," he says of the stage language that he has created for the play. "It's a language of movement and expression, small, separate. I drew the expressions for them. They didn't always understand but they did it. So, if a character has to scream, he has the movement and the expression and the scream comes naturally."

Hadari was born in Moshav Menahemya and studied at the Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts, where he studied the plastic arts. But during the last couple of years, he started to do installations which had to do "with space and time. I felt that painting and sculpture are limiting. There's no continuity. The audience isn't a part of it. I felt I needed another dimension of time and relationship so that the work could breathe."

He studied at the School of Visual Arts in Jerusalem for a while to get some kind of theoretical theatrical base. Then he went to Amsterdam, and from there to Paris, where he figuratively pounded on Philippe Genty's door until this magical maestro let him in to watch some of his rehearsals. He was less lucky at the Josef Nadj studio.

He paid his way by working the streets of Amsterdam as a living statue, changing position every time somebody dropped a coin into the waiting cap or can.

He then went on to Cracow to

meet with Tadeusz Kantor, not knowing that this great master of experimental theater had died in 1990. He did, however, meet with some of Kantor's actors, now in their 30s. He talked with them for hours and they let him watch Kantor's tapes, works, classes and exercises.

He'd had the idea for *Rust* before he went to Poland, Hadari says, but "Kantor did influence me enormously."

Currently he's working as head of the technical crew at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center. TAPAC head Nava Disenchik helped him enormously both logistically and practically, offering props and set pieces.

"I'll go on helping him," she says. "He's very talented and I love talent."

Hadari wants to study, but he's not sure where. He thinks it will be in Eastern Europe. But now that he's the newest flavor of the month, everybody will be pouncing on him and he'll have to navigate with care lest he dissipate what he has, "directing daft comedies," as one respected playwright at the festival put it.

There's ear-shattering noise in *Rust*. A major set piece is an iron shunter which comes down with a huge crash between scenes. The ensuing silence is like that which follows a blast, or shots, or which allows a still, small voice to speak.

Hadari's voice is going to come through, no matter what.

Zurich Ballet makes local debut with 'Goldberg Variations'

By HELEN KAYE

Swiss choreographer Heinz Spoerli has always loved Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, "but I never had the courage to do it," he says over the phone from his Basel home. "Then, at Düsseldorf, I had this big company of 70 dancers and I needed something with a lot of variety for a lot of soloists, so I took the plunge."

That was in 1996, the year Spoerli became artistic director of the Zurich Ballet and used the ballet to introduce himself to an enthusiastic Zurich public. Now the Zurich Ballet makes its Israeli debut with two performances of *Goldberg Variations* tomorrow and Thursday at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center.

The ages of his dancers inspired Spoerli's structure of the ballet at Düsseldorf. He had three sets of soloists there - in their 20s, 30s and 50s - who danced the ballet's three major pas de deux, "so it was very much about youth, growing up and getting older. I don't have that at Zurich, but the theme is still there."

He could have used Glenn Gould's seminal recording of the work, but instead the music is performed live "because in a piece like this it is very important that both sides relate to each other." The pianist is Alexey Botvinov, a winner of the Rachmaninov competition in Moscow and the Bach competition in Leipzig. Botvinov was living in Düsseldorf when Spoerli created the ballet, so it was natural to ask him. The choreographer hesitates a moment, and then ventures that Botvinov's interpretation is "more romantic than Gould's."

Romantic is an adjective that has chased classical ballet from the beginning. Not too long ago many people saw ballet in terms of the

Lullaby for a sick count

The technically difficult and emotionally complex *Goldberg Variations* are named for the 15-year-old orphaned boy who played them, Johann Goldberg. Bach wrote the work in 1742 for an ailing count who had trouble falling asleep. Count Hermann Carl von Kaysersberg had sheltered composition with Bach and asked the master to write him a "quiet, somewhat cheerful" piece to relieve the restless night hours. Bach came back with what he called an aria and 30 variations. The only such work he ever composed (that we know of). The count was so thrilled by the work that he had young Goldberg, who was his private harpsichordist, play them night after night. He rewarded Bach with a golden goblet filled with 100 golden loaves, a huge sum of money.

Apart from Glenn Gould, most of the world's greatest harpsichordists and pianists have played the *Variations*, including Daniel Barenboim, Frank Peter, Wanda Landowska and Andras Schiff. The late Jerome Robbins created a ballet based on *Variations* which the New York City Ballet premiered in 1971.

three Ts - tutus, tulle and toe shoes - a 19th-century anachronism that creaked into the 20th and has hung on irrelevantly in the age of contemporary dance. But Spoerli belongs on the roster of choreographers who reinvented the genre in the late '60s and '70s - along with Gino Kylan, William Forsythe, John Cranko, Maurice Bejart, Alvin Ailey and the old grand master himself, George Balanchine.

"It's important for dance that classical ballet stays alive," Spoerli observes, "and it has to stay important, not because I'm doing it, but because its [technique] builds good dancers, which modern dance does not."

Classical ballet has evolved more slowly than modern dance, he admits, but "modern dance very much involves the personality of the dancer, so if the dancer leaves, the dance dies. I think that the choreography must stay alive."

Spoerli, 56, was born and raised in Basel. His father was the stage manager of a music hall "and

that's how I got involved in theater." He trained as a dancer and quickly became a soloist, dancing with companies in his hometown, as well as in Geneva, Cologne and Winnipeg, "but I was always interested in choreography. I helped the choreographers and they gave me chances."

His first piece was *Le Chemin*, which he created for the Geneva Ballet. In 1973 he became the artistic director of the Basel Ballet and the 70 ballets he created there helped put both company and choreographer on the international map. These included works like *Traume*, set to Wagner, and remakes of the great classics like *Swan Lake* and *La Fille Mal Gardée*. From 1991 until he went to Zurich, Spoerli ran the ballet at the Deutsche Oper.

This may be Zurich's first visit to Israel but it's Spoerli's fourth. He first came in the '70s when he created *Opus 34* for the Israel Ballet, and then came twice more with the Basel Ballet. "I always travel with my company," he says.

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL SHERIDAN

The German label Hanssler Classic concentrates first and foremost on the greatest choral masterpieces in the repertoire performed by the two major choral groups of Helmut Rilling.

But there are many other Hanssler discs in the catalog, occasionally by musicians who very seldom reach the limelight. All these discs have superbly recorded sound and multilingual, informative and well-designed liner notes. For example, one of the most enjoyable discs I have encountered recently is *Fantasia* (Hanssler 98.147) performed by the Ensemble Dreiklang Berlin, three exceptional recorder players who present a most inspiring and gratifying rendition of minuet gems by baroque composers, most of whom are relatively unknown - such as John Coperario, Sefton Cottom, W. Wander v. Nieuwerkerk - along with two contemporary composers, Holger Hoffmann and Kazimierz Serocki.

But in spite of the totally unfamiliar names, this is a real find; the musicians are first-rate and perform these short, light pieces with utmost sincerity and obvious delight.

Pianist Eugene Mursky (Schumann, Beethoven, Hanssler 98.178) plays with seeming ease and captivating brilliance Beethoven's "Moonlight" sonata, in a disc that has several Beethoven and Schumann piano pieces in it.

Here is a young pianist who revels in the drama within the music and manages to draw beguiling sounds from the keyboard. This is not a sophisticated, "academic" reading, but a very spontaneous one, which is enjoyable from beginning to end.

Pianist Christopher Czaja Sager (Robert Schumann, Hanssler

98.135) delves deep into Schumann with a most poetic reading of the *Waldszenen* Op. 82 and the *Davidstänndertänze* Op. 6. The latter is a work that - for reasons that aren't clear - is very rarely performed, and the pianist provides the necessary drama in what is a very romantic piece of music.

Ivan Moravec is a true romantic and his rendition of Mozart's 20th and 23rd piano concerti (*Piano Concertos*, Mozart, Hanssler 98.142) is pure charm. It is one of his several recordings of Mozart for the Hanssler label with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, led by Sir Neville Marriner.

Moravec floats easily on the keyboard as he takes the listener on a rather classic reading of the Mozart concerti. Marriner accompanies him in the right style, forging a perfect balance.

Under the leadership of Iona Brown, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields emerges as a very spectacular chamber ensemble (*Adagio Concerto Grosso Canon*, Hanssler 98.989).

In this encores-style disc of music, ranging from Mozart to Pachelbel, from Gluck to Purcell, Brown leads the ensemble in a passionate, very romantic presentation of some of the more baroque-like gems of the repertoire, like the overplayed Albinoni Adagio.

The presentation is first class, the rendition engaging, though some might question the actual interpretation.

Pianist Gerrit Zitterbart (*Bach 3 Piano Sonatas, Mozart 3 Piano Concertos*, Hanssler 98.149) embarks on three piano sonatas by Johann Christian Bach and the three early piano concerti by Mozart which were based on those sonatas.

To hear yet more works that are seldom performed.

This is a first-rate baroque presentation with the excellent Schliekerbächer Kammerorchester under Thomas Fey. Zitterbart is a pianist who delves deep into the essence of early Mozart.

Last but not least comes also Ingeborg Danz, whose solo album

of songs by Brahms (*Ingeborg Danz, Brahms*, Hanssler 98.150) is a most pleasant and enjoyable affair.

Danz's warm instrument caresses the listener, and the 24 short songs never sound identical. Each has its own clear musical identity in a disc that is captivating to the ear, and the heart.

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No housing solution

Meretz MK Ran Cohen claims that the passage of his bill into law to sell public housing to tenants at a discount is a "victory for social justice." In reality, both the Public Housing Law and the coalition-backed initiative it replaced are demagogic, irresponsible, and socially disastrous - unless they amount to privatization in disguise.

Both the new law and a competing government bill backed by Likud whip Meir Sheetrit offer similar versions of the same idea: allow long-term tenants to buy the government-owned apartments they live in, at deeply discounted prices. The bills differed in the exact size of the discounts and eligibility criteria, but each could provide a tidy windfall to some public-housing residents.

In contrast with other government-sponsored windfalls, such as allowing kibbutzim to sell government-owned land worth roughly NIS 20 billion, this one benefits one of the weaker sectors of society. Those who live in public housing generally cannot afford to leave, even if they were to take advantage of existing rental-assistance funds.

Even though the windfall would benefit poor people, it does so in an unfair and inefficient way. It is unclear why some public-housing tenants, who happen to fit the criteria and live in areas where real-estate prices are high, should be handed properties worth tens of thousands of dollars, sometimes over \$100,000. It has been argued that the government cannot readily sell most of these apartments anyway, since the tenants can stay as long as they wish. But some 5 percent of public housing is vacated every year through natural turnover, so the government could sell these apartments and use the funds to provide more rental subsidies, improve public housing, or other social programs.

Instead, tenants will be able to buy the apartments for as little as 15 percent of their market value, with the government swallowing a paper loss for the rest of the price. In the case of Amigur properties, which are owned by the United Israel Appeal (the conduit in the US through which Jewish federations funnel money to the Jewish Agency), the loss might not be just on paper: the government will have to compensate the UIA for the value of the apartments. UIA officials estimate that Amigur's 20,000 apartments (one fifth of the public housing in Israel) are worth roughly \$1.2 billion.

Beyond the question of fairness, there is per-

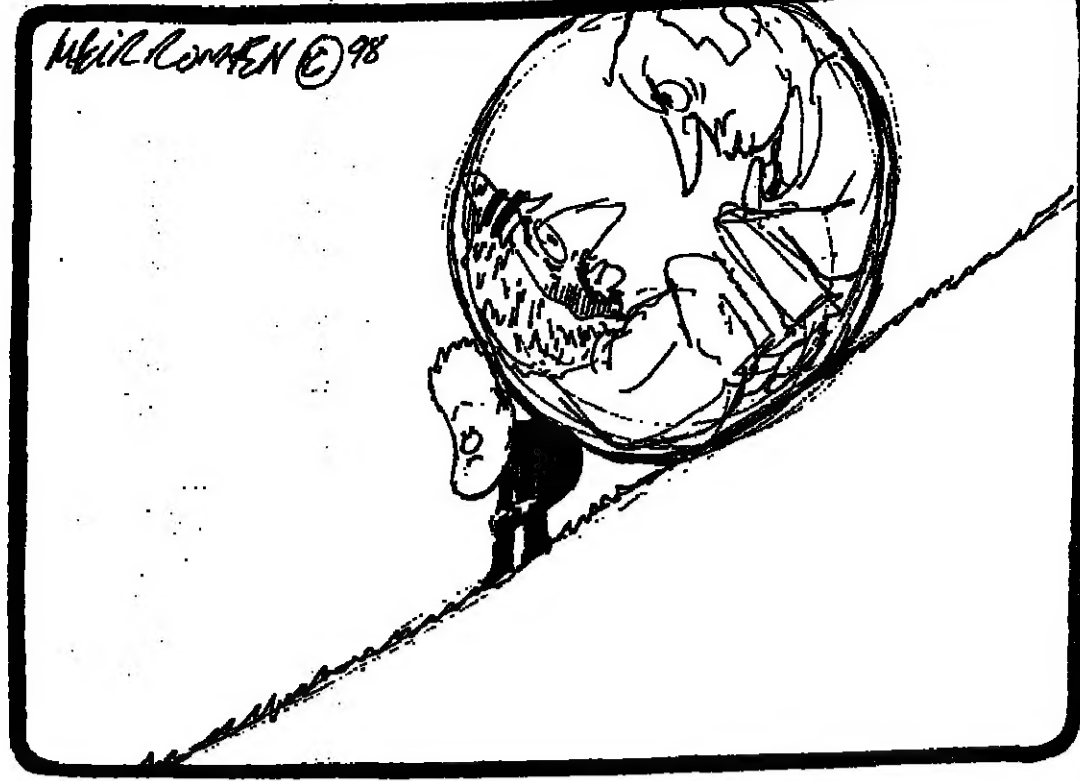
haps the more important question of the future of public housing. Most of the law's backers and their rivals would be loath to admit that their proposals spell the end of public housing. Cohen says that the income from apartment sales should fund the building of new public housing. But neither the Cohen or Sheetrit initiatives are likely to generate sufficient funds, given the steep mandated discounts, to replenish the stock of public housing.

Even if the funds were there, chances that new public housing will be built following the precedent of a government sell-off are slim indeed. Even the government is not so foolish as to invest in properties that it will be forced to sell in the future at a massive loss. Further, the demand for public housing will increase - given the expectation of future sell-offs - while the natural turnover could decrease for the same reason.

The ironic result of the disincentives to replenish the public housing stock is that both the new law and the Sheetrit proposal could be recipes for stealth privatization. Third Way MKs Alex Lubotzky and Yisrael Harel openly voted for the Cohen bill on this basis. As Harel put it, "I am for privatization. The government should not maintain apartments." Though everyone agrees that society must help provide housing to those who cannot afford it, having the government play landlord creates more problems than it solves.

Though the way the Cohen and Sheetrit initiatives set about privatization is costly, if it results in largely removing the government from the housing business, it will save money in the long run. If however, the government tries to perpetuate a cycle of building and giving away housing, the cost - both socially and financially - will be enormous.

The Finance Ministry has all but stated that Cohen's legislation is already unaffordable, and that the government will seek to neutralize it in the arrangements bill that will accompany the budget in a few months. Chances are, the whole idea will join a host of other expensive, politically attractive measures that become law but are never fully implemented - such as the long school day. Now that the Knesset and government have created tremendous expectations among public housing residents, however, they have a responsibility to come through with a fairer, more affordable, more realistic and sustainable plan to privatize public housing.



Dirty campaign

STEWART WEISS

Anyone harboring illusions about the Jewish people being universally loved had only to glance at the headlines over the past few weeks to dispel such fantasies.

In Russia, massive anti-government rallies featured posters of President Yeltsin with a large Star of David on his forehead, thus pointing a not-so-subtle finger at the party whom the protesters blame for that beleaguered country's many ills.

In Egypt, the latest movie sweeping the nation features a young man who "comes of age" when he realizes that Israel and America are ruining his life. The central scene of the movie - wherein the "hero" stamps on an Israeli flag and repeatedly gives the Nazi salute - has been met by thunderous applause from packed audiences.

Yet, as ominous and unpleasant as these international snapshots may be, I am even more concerned about what is happening right in my own backyard. For in Ra'anana - seat of civility and tolerance - the upcoming municipal election has unleashed a wave of hatred and intolerance that is nothing short of frightening.

All over the city, large posters for the Labor mayoral candidate proclaim: "Stop the hatred!" and "We have sold the city to the haredim!" The official Labor platform - backed by national party leaders - warns of "hordes of haredim invading the city from Be'er Brak and Jerusalem," with insidious plans to "teach religion to our schoolchildren," and "close the main thoroughfares on Shabbat."

The Meretz literature, passed out door-to-door, lists proudly among its "accomplishments" this year, "the blocking of two synagogues from being built, and the forcing of several places of entertainment to open their doors on Shabbat."

The various charges being bandied about are lies from start to finish. In reality, there are no plans to close any streets on Shabbat; there is no "haredization" of the city; in fact, there are virtually no haredim to be found in Ra'anana.

If the signs in Ra'anana substituted "secular," "Ethiopian," or "Arab" for "haredi," is there any doubt that these same parties now putting up the billboards would be at the forefront of the protests, screaming "Racism" and "Incitement"? Or is it only the non-religious who merit civil rights and mutual respect in the perpetrators' twisted concept of "live and let live?"

And if this libelous campaign

were to be held in any country of the Diaspora - vilifying Jews and condemning them purely on the basis of their spiritual beliefs, denying their right to build a house of worship - would there not be a massive outpouring of resentment and disapproval, with Jews galvanizing worldwide to stop the discrimination? Why, then, should Israel - sworn to defend all Jews and uphold their rights - be exempt from fair-play and decency?

What is happening in our city is not about religious coercion, or quality of life, or the fair distribution of limited funds and resources. Those are legitimate issues, that rightfully belong in the national debate. No, this phenomenon, unfortunately, is about baseless hate and blind prejudice. And it is directed not at the nebulous "haredim," but at all observant Jews, regardless of what we wear on our heads. In truth, we are all haredim.

We have long known that the worst antisemitism are often Jews. The sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe, Yitzhak Yosef Schneerson, was thrown into a Russian prison by his own nephew, who led a large group of Communist Jews who shut down synagogues and Jewish schools throughout the land.

Elmer Berger, leader of the American Council for Judaism, worked tirelessly to prevent Israel from being recognized as a nation. And, notes renowned historian Berel Wein, even many of the despotic Spanish Inquisitors of the 15th century - including the master torturer Torquemada - were descended from Jewish roots.

In the shadow of the upcoming anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's murder, those who rightly believe that violent words are the precursors to violent acts should seriously consider their own behavior and speech. They should not fail to understand that home-grown antisemitism is invariably the most dangerous antisemitism of all.

The writer is the director of the Jewish Outreach Center of Ra'anana.

Early House election results

RICHARD SHENKMAN

So much in life is unpredictable that I instinctively refrain from making predictions.

Will the stock market continue its downward trend? I don't know and refuse to guess.

Will Yeltsin finish his term? Don't know that either.

But I can tell you with utmost certainty that this November, no matter how the public comes to feel about Monica Lewinsky, Linda Tripp, Kenneth Starr or Bill Clinton, the Republicans are not only going to hang onto their majority in Congress, they are going to add to it.

How do I know this? In off-year elections, the president's party almost always loses seats in the Senate and always does in the House of Representatives. An exception occurred in 1934, at the height of the Great Depression, when Republicanism was synonymous with Hooverism. That year, Franklin Roosevelt increased his party's majority in the House of Representatives.

Let me put it another way, more starkly: Since the birth of the modern, two-party system 150 years ago, only once, during FDR's first term, has a president succeeded in increasing his party's membership in the House.

Pick any president you like. The story's the same.

Woodrow Wilson? During his first term, his party lost 61 seats in the off-year elections; during his second term, 26 seats. Harry Truman? 54 and 29. Dwight Eisenhower? 18 and 47. Ronald Reagan? 25 and 5.

WHY SHOULD you care about this bit of history? Because the

Bill Clinton has lost the November 3 election before it began. And he can't do a thing about it.

day after the Nov. 3 election, the Republican leaders of Congress will hold a news conference to announce that their clear victory over the Democrats amounts to public support for impeachment proceedings against President Clinton.

Their victory, if it occurs, will not mean any such thing. In most of the races around the country, neither the Democrats nor the Republicans are mentioning the Lewinsky scandal. They're concentrating on local issues, as usual. Even in those districts where the president is campaigning, the Lewinsky matter is but one of many issues the voters are taking into consideration. Unlike Watergate, this scandal does not appear to be driving local campaigns.

But because the Republican leaders have subtly framed this election as a referendum on the president, they will claim that their victory amounts to a mandate to pursue him.

Such an interpretation would be wrong. But because the public is unfamiliar with the history of off-year elections, it won't be in a position to challenge the Republicans' view.

The White House could argue that the party lost because of history, not because of Bill Clinton, but almost certainly in making that argument the administration would appear defensive and unpersuasive.

The Democrats could lessen the impact of defeat by emphasizing before their inevitable loss, that history is against them. This seems such an obvious strategy that one wonders why they haven't adopted it.

It is, after all, the same strategy the Clinton administration has been successfully employing for the last six years: When you have bad news, get it out before the opposition does, so that you are in a position to control how it's reported.

The difficulty is that what is in the president's interest is not his party's interest. The last thing Democrats around the country want to hear is that White House aides are saying defeat is inevitable. That could become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Democrats think they are slated to lose, no matter what the rank-and-file will say home on Election Day. That could turn a rout into a catastrophe.

So the president and his party will keep quiet about history as they prepare in private for a defeat.

Bill Clinton has lost this election before it began. And he can't do a thing about it.

(The Baltimore Sun)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BIASED HEADLINE

Sir, - The headline, "Even scapegoats may be guilty" (September 28) over a report concerning the sentencing of Margalit Har-Shefi is an absurdity which in no way reflects the essence of the comments by either Prof. Eliaz Shachmetan or Prof. Ze'ev Segal.

Webster's Dictionary defines a scapegoat as: a) a person or thing bearing the blame for others; and b) a person, group, race, or institution against whom is directed the irrational hostility and unrelieved aggression of others.

If Har-Shefi is guilty, how can she possibly be a scapegoat? And if she is a scapegoat how can she possibly be guilty? The headline is clearly a telling commentary on the biased mindset of the headline-writer.

DAVID EIDELMAN

Ramat Hasharon.

FILMING REB SHLOMO

Sir, - I was very interested in reading David Weinberg's article "Missing Reb Shlomo" (October 11), since I was in Moscow with Shlomo Carlebach during Succot, 1970.

I would like to hear from anyone else who was with him at any time in the Soviet Union, since I am part of a group proposing to make a film about Shlomo Carlebach's life.

Please write to me at POB 4232, Jerusalem 91044.

AVI LEHRER

Jerusalem.

SLOW JUSTICE

Sir, - As I am now nearly 64 years of age, I would like to know if I am going to live long enough to see a verdict in the Aryeh Deri trial.

I would like to know how a trial could be allowed to go on for as many years as this one has, without an end in sight.

It also looks as if the trial of those charged with the collapse of the bridge at the Maccabi Games is going the same way! It has also disappeared from sight. Is this the justice system in Israel?

Sir, - I read with great interest the amusing article "The intolerable burden father gave me," by Adi Wimmer (October 13). I am astonished that he didn't mention that Adolf Hitler's original family name was Schicklgruber. He later took the maiden name of his mother - Hitler. He, himself, once said that with a name like Schicklgruber you cannot go out to the political life and win.

ALEXANDER SHARON

Jerusalem.

UNTRUE GENERALIZATION

Sir, - Regarding David Newman's article "The great escape" (October 7), where did Professor Newman get the omniscience to know the motivation behind the great exodus during the holiday period?

Maybe it's just a convenient time to take the family abroad. How does he know people are "fleeing" because "the festivals mean absolutely nothing to them, even as a cultural experience"?

As for his claim that "for the Israeli secular any form of religious worship... is religion, and religion is, by their definition, neg-

ative," maybe he's speaking for himself but how dare he generalize to include all secular people.

I am a secular Israeli yet I see true religious belief as a very positive thing. I hate religious coercion and intolerance but I respect those who really believe. Newman's article will play into the hands of those who want to prove that the secular have no (Jewish) values. He is being as obtuse as they are.

O.W. HALL

Tel Aviv.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On October 21, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the cabinet had ordered a cease-fire after, following a heavy battle, the Israeli Southern and Negev armies established contact, midway between Negba and Dorot. This gave Israel control of another road to the Negev, parallel to the coastal highway.

Jerusalem was shelled by Arabs again, one of the projectiles hitting the roof of the American Consulate-General.

25 years ago: On October 21, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that armored Israeli spearheads pried open the Egyptian defences along both sides of the Suez Canal, expanding their front-line

positions. US military sources reported that at least 12,000 Israeli troops and 200 tanks have poured across the Suez Canal.

Henry Kissinger, US Secretary of State, began his Mid-East peace talks in Moscow after a surprise flight there.

Alexander Zvielli

50 years ago

Early House election results



Smurfs fall short but Barbie is beautiful



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Barbie Me'atzevet Se'ar (Barbie Hair Stylist), a CD-ROM in Hebrew, distributed and translated by Makhshavei from the original English-language disk in the Barbie Software for Girls series by Mattel Media, requires Windows 95, for girls aged four and older, NIS 189. Rating: ★★★★★

If only getting yourself together in the morning were this easy: Curl, straighten, cut or color your hair with the click of a computer mouse, and there's no gel or lipstick to soil your clothes.

Yes, girls, you can help Barbie and her friends Teresa (red-headed Caucasian), Christy (black) or Kyra (Asian) get ready for work, a dream date, a costume party or (ahh...) her own wedding, with no trouble at all.

The program is very well designed and user friendly, with oral instructions and not a bit of text. Clicking on icons produces a very attractive young woman. Save and print out her picture and then see her "in the flesh," in an animated video segment, her hair and face made up as you intended. She even thanks you for making her so beautiful.

After choosing one of the four models, you are presented with icons: a comb for hairstyling, a pearl necklace for accessories and lipstick for makeup. Each icon leads to more symbols.

When you've decided to do her hair, select a general style from about a dozen possibilities. Then use the straight scissors to cut it straight, the angled one to cut at a bias, the curlers to make it wavy, the comb to make it longer and the brush to sweep Barbie's tresses behind her shoulders - all with a click of the mouse. Hair can be colored in two hues with odd-looking stripes. You can even change her eye color - an African Christy with blue or green eyes is a sight for sore eyes.

When doing the makeup, select the right color of lipstick, blusher and eyeshadow from the many options available. When you "apply" the shadow, Barbie and her friends perky close their eyes, and you can click more to make the color deeper. When you put on the lipstick, she purses her lips, and the color can be made iridescent or matte.

Next, go into the accessories and add earrings and/or necklaces, hairclips, a tiara, pin - or even a tattoo on her cheek! If you choose "costume party" as her destination, you can add cat ears and whiskers, a mask or a variety of hats. Although we've been told that "boys don't make passes at girls who wear glasses," there are a variety of spectacles to choose from.

At any stage in the makeover, you can click an icon to rotate Barbie 360 degrees and make sure she looks as good from the sides and back as from the front. If she looks picture perfect, you can freeze the final version by clicking a photograph (from any of the four angles) that's saved for as long as you want. Match the photo with one of a dozen picture frames and print it out on your printer. Click on the camera icon and in 10 or 15 seconds you'll be shown the step-by-step stages of the makeover, and see the finished Barbie (or Barbie friend) going off on her dream date, driving to work, entering a costume party or going down the aisle at her wedding.

Although the possibilities are endless, some girls may tire after making dozens of Barbie versions. Still, pre-teens or adolescents who spend much of their

free time in front of the mirror will undoubtedly enjoy using the program. But unless your son wants to be a famous (and rich) hairdresser, keep him away from the computer. He's likely to want to make Barbie as ugly as possible with tattoos on her cheek, hair bleached white or dyed red and green, with bangs covering her eyes and looking as if she accidentally stuck her finger in an electrical socket.

Lomdim Im Hadardasim: Tzurot Utzva'im (Learning with the Smurfs: Shapes and Colors), a CD-ROM translated into Hebrew by Media Plus and marketed by Bug Multisystem, based on the disk from Infogrames (Belgium), run with Windows 3.1 or 95, for children aged three to six. NIS 159. Rating: ★★★★★

Older Israeli kids will recall the Smurfs from a decade or more ago as cute blue cartoon characters with white stocking caps and high-pitched voices. The tribe's name was translated as Dardasim and reruns are still broadcast on cable TV. Media Plus has tried to revive their popularity by translating three foreign CD-ROMs into Hebrew for the preschool crowd. Aside from this disk on shapes and colors, there are two others on logic and memory, and numbers and letters, neither of which I have examined.

The color-and-shapes disk was very disappointing. Although the home page seems to be full of icons with things to do, it's misleading. If you decide to try out the games - which comprise the bulk of the program - you see that you've already gone through the same material by clicking on icons of the five Smurfs alongside. There's also a mushroom icon, but that's meant solely as a quick way to switch to go into the two other pieces of software in the series - if you've bought them.

Click on a tree icon to get into the Smurfs' village. The graphics are pleasant and professional, with a large variety of figures that turn into sight gags when you click on them. When you reach a door leading to one of the five games, a large red arrow appears. Each game can be played at several levels of difficulty: just click the plus or minus on a jack holding a Smurf to make it harder or easier. The oral help menu explains everything, but the games really aren't much to write home about.

Help a grasshopper get up a wall by clicking on bricks painted with the two colors (out of five) that you're instructed to use; at higher levels of difficulty, the walls get higher and you have to work against a clock. But this will certainly bore any five- or six-year-old who learned his colors years earlier.

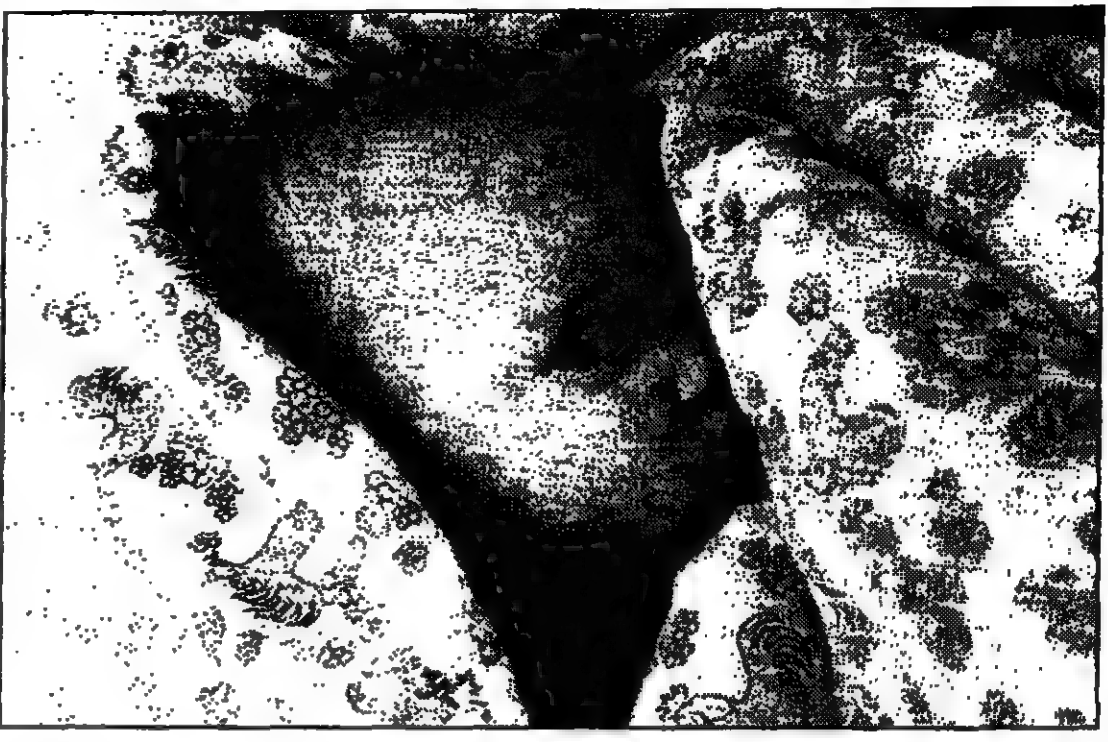
In another game, the child must click on a bear, candy or flower of the color requested. A third game shows some imagination: given the choice of three stars with different colors, you are asked to click again and again on one color as the stars move around the screen. Following instructions produces a line-and-dot drawing outlining various star constellations, such as the Ursa Major. The user is also asked to "dress" a Smurf with any of nine different-colored pieces of clothing to match a picture of the Smurf that should be the final product. When working against a countdown in any of the games, the spark on a fuse inches closer to dynamite that finally blows up the Smurf and gives him a blackened face (perhaps not a sight that will warm the heart of Israeli kids).

A mediocre drawing section finishes off the disk: there are 13 different Smurf pictures whose parts can be filled in with 10 colors.

A preparatory section teaches younger kids how to use a mouse: click on a birthday cake and then a gift box. Finally, drag a green worm into the gift box. But even with this lesson the disk is meager. Spend NIS 159 on a Lego game instead.

Teaching your child to sleep

How do you get a baby to sleep through the night? It can be the worst problem of new parenthood, writes Shari Roan, who finds the experts don't agree



Totally adorable during the day - but will her wakefulness have her parents tearing their hair out at night? (Lisa Plinkov)

Pointers for a restful night

Here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics on helping your baby learn to sleep through the night:

- Don't let your infant sleep for long stretches during the day (no more than 3.5 hours during naps).
- Make sure there is a quiet period before your infant goes to bed. A pleasant routine, such as singing or bathing, may help the baby

- prepare for sleep.
- Put your baby to bed at the first sign of drowsiness. Let the baby learn to relax into sleep.
- If you hold or rock a baby to sleep, he or she may become dependent on you for falling asleep.
- Give your child a security item at bedtime, such as a soft toy or blanket.
- Avoid putting the baby to bed

- with a pacifier. If the child loses it at night, he or she might wake up and cry.
- Begin to delay your reaction to the infant's fussing or crying around the age of four to six months. Wait five minutes before going into the baby's room to see if the child will settle. When you do check, be sure the baby isn't hungry, soiled or sick. (Los Angeles Times)

meaning it is less than 24 hours. But, around three to four months, according to the academy, babies should naturally settle into a circadian rhythm, which means their sleep-wake pattern will follow a 24-hour pattern. At this age, they can usually skip a feeding, such as the 2 a.m. one.

At four months of age, studies show, about one-third of babies will sleep through the night on their own. By four to seven months, baby should be able to go eight hours without feeding, and during this period, parents can play a role in promoting uninterrupted sleep, experts say. The pediatric academy does not follow any particular method, but suggests such things as not bothering to screen out light and noise during baby's daytime naps and not letting baby nap for long periods.

At night, the academy suggests, minimize play and interaction. Keep lights low when feeding. Don't talk or turn on the TV. And put baby in her crib when she's sleepy but still awake, so that she

can learn to put herself to sleep. It sounds pretty simple. Too often, however, such mild advice doesn't cut it, and parents turn to more strategic methods.

FOR instance, the 1985 best seller *Solve Your Child's Sleep Problems* (Simon & Schuster), by Dr. Richard Ferber, is still recommended for parents whose babies have developed troublesome sleep habits.

Like Dr. Benjamin Spock before him, Ferber says that by five to six months, babies who cry at bedtime or when awakening in the middle of the night should be allowed to cry, giving them a chance to learn to put themselves back to sleep.

After five minutes of crying, a parent can go in for a couple of minutes to reassure him, pat him, talk to him but not pick him up.

This process is repeated each night, lengthening the interval that the baby cries to 10 and then 15 minutes. Parents are advised to return to the baby's room every 15 minutes for reassurance until he

falls asleep. After a few nights of this, Ferber says, baby will adapt to the routine without crying.

"It's almost foolproof," noted Dr. Joseph Hagan, an American Academy of Pediatrics spokesman and Vermont pediatrician, in an issue of the academy's magazine *Healthy Kids* last year. "But parents have to be sure they're ready to try this, because if they chicken out and pick up the baby after an hour and a half, they've conditioned the baby to think that, eventually, they will always pick him up." What appears to work for a growing number of new parents is a more rigid approach in which a very young baby is trained to sleep when the rest of the family does.

ONE such "sleep training" approach has been popularized with the 1995 book *On Becoming Babywise* (Multnomah Books) by Gary Ezzo, a nondenominational Christian minister and parenting educator, and Louisville pediatrician Robert Bucknam. The book has sold 234,000 copies while

Ezzo's Growing Families International parenting programs, headquartered in Simi Valley, Calif., have become popular in many churches throughout the country.

While Ferber's method focuses on fixing sleep problems that have developed, Ezzo advocates training babies to put themselves to sleep beginning at about eight weeks.

"There are certain things you can do to establish healthy nighttime sleep," Ezzo says. "The key to nighttime is, No. 1, you have to synchronize the child's circadian clock." To do that, he says, the baby should be kept on a fairly strict schedule for feedings, wake time and nap time. This repetition will lead an infant into a natural circadian rhythm at night.

"It's a no-brainer," says Ezzo, who says his own surveys show that the method works in 98 percent of infants.

If the baby starts waking up in the middle of the night, Ezzo encourages parents to investigate why the baby is waking.

"That's the beauty of having a routine," he says. "When something out of the routine takes place, you know there is a problem. Go in and find out what the problem is. It's not uncommon for a baby to begin to wake up at 2 a.m. Ninety percent of the time they need more food during the day. Whenever comfort is needed, parents must give comfort."

EZZO'S approach, however, has been criticized as being insensitive to a baby's needs. Harsh criticism over putting baby - especially a breast-fed baby - on a strict eating schedule even led Ezzo to soften his instructions in a recently revised edition of *Babywise*.

"This [approach] could only be written by a man," says pediatrician Sears, who advocates "parenting" a baby to sleep by nursing or rocking and always picking up a crying baby. "It desensitizes a parent to the cues of their infant. A mother is biologically wired to respond to an infant's cry. But that doesn't mean that you don't teach your child that nighttime is for sleeping."

Sears is well-known for his advice that parents put the baby in bed with them or move the crib within arm's reach of the mother. He calls this "co-sleeping" and says it satisfies the baby's need to be physically close to the mother. Few pediatricians are enthusiastic about co-sleeping, however.

So, with "experts" at odds with one another's approaches, what is a parent to do? It all goes back to doing what is best for the individual family, most of these experts acknowledge.

"You can't follow the same set of rules for every baby," says UCLA's Tyler. "In parenting, you have to be very fluid. You may do one thing with one child, and the second one comes along with a different attitude. You can't try to fit that second child in with the first child."

Tyler recalls a colleague who counseled a family with a newborn who cried incessantly.

"This was the couple's 13th child," she says. "But none of the others had ever had colic, and the parents didn't know what to do." (Los Angeles Times)

A policeman talks about kids and road safety



By Ruth Mason

We live in a fairly quiet neighborhood. Is it safe to let our seven-year-old son cross the street by himself? Is it safe to let him ride his bike alone? Can we belt two children in one seat belt in the back seat?

Cmdr. Udi Efrat, head of the Israel Police's department of planning and development, Traffic Division, answers:

There is no law concerning the minimum age that a child can cross the street alone. Some children can cross safely at six, others not until eight and others not even then.

It depends on the child. Some boys at seven act like babies and shouldn't be allowed to cross even quiet streets, while others act like 10-year-olds and should be allowed. But it always depends on what kind of street. And children should always cross at a crosswalk, or at an intersection or with crossing guards.

I would recommend taking your child out and teaching him how to cross the street. Explain all the possible dangers and check his ability to understand what the street means, the hazards and flow of traffic, that crossing is always his responsibility and that even if he's right, that's not enough. He needs to

understand the saying: "Don't be right, be smart." He needs to grasp that in an accident with a car, the car always wins - even if the child was in the right.

I allow my seven-and-a-half-year-old son to cross certain streets alone, but not others. His route home from school is longer so that he does not have to cross a major street. We designed this route and practiced it with him before we let him do it alone.

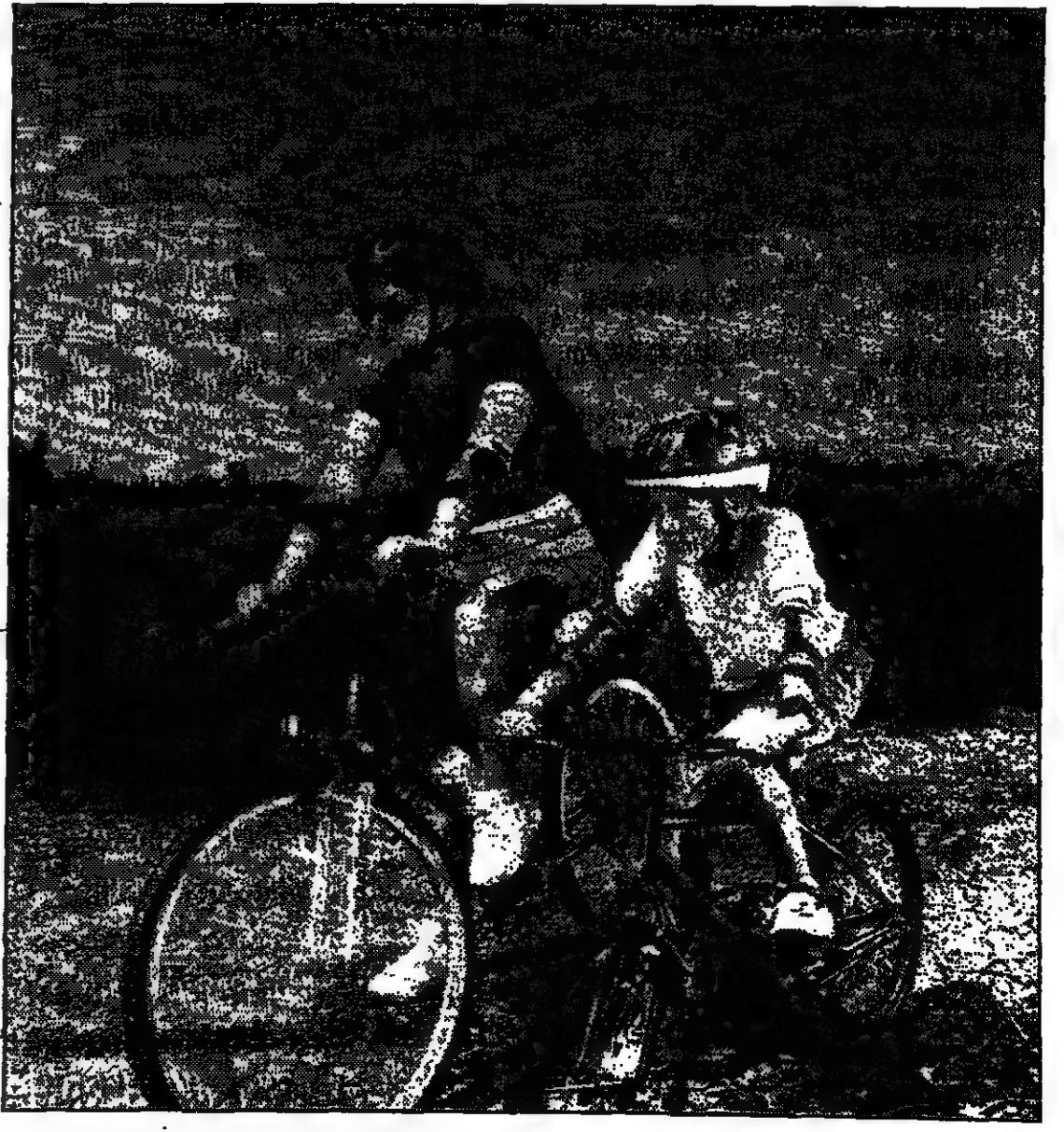
Never put two kids in one seat belt. If there is a bad accident, one might crush the other. Better to have three children, each in a seat belt, and one without than to have two children in one belt. (I should note here that having four kids in the back seat is not against the law. The law only requires that everyone be seated safely.) But it's always better for everyone to be in seat belts.

With bicycles, again, it depends on the child. But parents need to be extremely careful. You should allow children to ride on streets only where there is little traffic.

Although the law doesn't require it, children should wear helmets and use protective gear on their knees and elbows so that if they fall, the injury will be less serious.

Bicycles, especially the brakes, must be in good working order. When riding in the dark, the rider and the bike should have light-reflecting equipment. Bicycles are legally required to have a light at night.

I want to add that a large percentage of children who are injured in traffic accidents are injured very close to home - not just as pedestrians, but in vehicles. So even on a three-minute trip to the store, to friends or to an afternoon activity, make sure you and your children are in seat belts.



Better be safe than sorry: Allow children to ride only on streets with little traffic, and make sure they are wearing helmets and other protective gear. (Yael Cooper)

By Batsheva Mink

The philodendron is a native of the tropical rain forests of Central and South America and the Caribbean, where the soil is low on nutrients. To counter this, the plants developed two types of aerial roots as well as roots that penetrate the ground. The shorter aerial roots, generally put out at right angles to the stem, have adhesive root hairs and attach the plant to the climbing surface. Long feeding roots, meanwhile, absorb water and nutrients and may dominate at great length if the plant situates itself high on a tree. After hich-

Repotting: Repot houseplants every second year in early spring.



you will spay your animal before this happens), or are looking for a home for a stray, advertise wherever you can, but specify that the new owners must pay for the inoculations and any medical care the animal has received. In this way, you help ensure that it gets a proper home.

MAR

DOLLAR SNEAKS

DOWN JUNE

Sept. trade def.

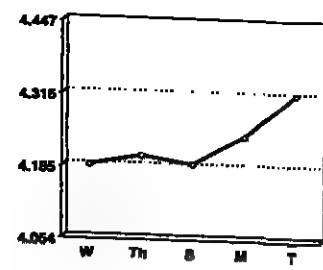
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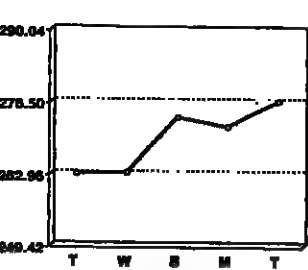
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL

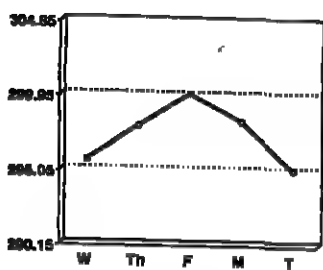


MAOF INDEX



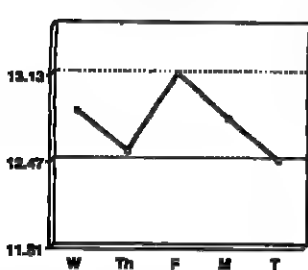
GOLD

\$ per ounce

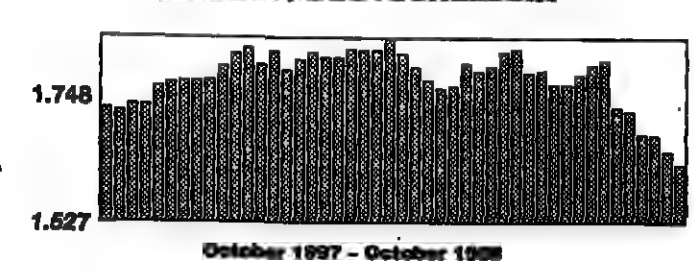


OIL

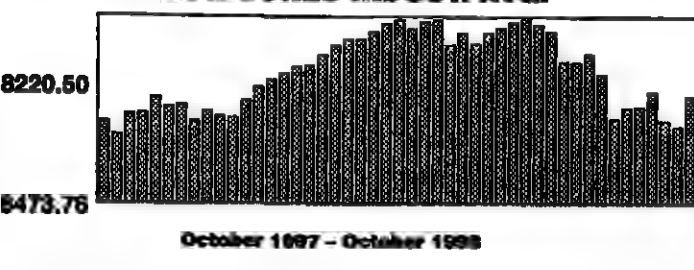
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Discount launches private banking arm

Israel Discount Bank has opened a private banking unit which will supply services to clients with over \$1 million in their accounts. Discount is the last of the country's three largest banks to open such a center. Yair Hachohen, who heads the new unit, said that it will operate 24 hours a day. He added that the private banking unit will offer specific plans tailored to clients' requirements. The unit will offer its services also to foreign clients and will allow them to act abroad without revealing their identities.

Dan Gerstenfeld

QE Capital opens Israel office

QE Capital Equity Capital Group (ECG) yesterday opened an office in Tel Aviv. The company said that the new facility is part of its global expansion and reflects its interest in technology investment.

The move follows the company's \$20 million joint venture with the high-tech investment fund ABS GE Capital Giza. Sam Cubac, director of the new office, said it will be focusing on technology investment among mid- and late-stage private companies. ECG has \$1 billion a year available to invest in growth capital, replacement or secondary capital, buy-outs and buy-ins. The company is a subsidiary of GE Capital, a wholly owned company of the General Electric Company.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Jan.-Sept. trade deficit with Asia at \$175m.

Israel's trade deficit with Asian countries reached \$175 million during the first nine months of the year, compared to a \$930m. surplus in the equivalent period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

At the same time, the trade surplus with the US increased 87 percent to \$2,076 billion, while the deficit with the European Union shrank some 22% to \$4.706b.

David Zev Harris

Neeman asks public to fight senior officials' pay hikes

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday there is little he can do to fight pay hikes for senior public-sector officials, and appealed to the public to help fight the hikes approved by MKs Monday night.

The MKs voted all those at the top levels in the public sector a 5.4 percent pay rise in their October wages. This is in addition to the 3.2% awarded in January. The remainder of the public sector received a 1.5% pay increase this year.

"The public has its own ways to react and this is a democratic coun-

try," he said. "It's just impossible to explain," he added, "it's a vicious circle, which we must break."

Some 2,500 executives presently receive salaries in line with those of ministers and deputy ministers and are entitled to this jump in salary, as are those of a further 1,146 senior workers whose pay is pegged to that of judges.

Some of those affected by the changes are:

- the prime minister, who will receive NIS 30,496 a month, up NIS 1,574;
- the other ministers, who will find an extra NIS 1,417 in their pay packets, which will go up to NIS

27,447;

• deputy ministers and MKs, whose salaries will rise NIS 1,311 to NIS 21,593;

• mayors, their deputies, heads of religious councils and state rabbis, all of whom stand receive a 5.4% increase.

Just 18 MKs took part in the vote, with only Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud) and Maxim Levy (Geshet) voting to freeze wages.

The Treasury is planning to ask MKs to agree to link top-level public-sector pay to the consumer price index, rather than to the average wage as is the case today, said Treasury head of Wages and Labor

Agreements Yossi Kucik.

However, Neeman and Kucik admitted this will not be easy, as MKs would be expected to cut their own salaries by approving the move. The aim is to introduce this proposal as part of the budgetary arrangements bill, which is to be introduced to the Knesset alongside the 1999 state budget package.

Asked by journalists whether a petition to the High Court would help, Neeman smiled and said that the very judges who would discuss such an issue are also benefitting from the status quo.

This approval leaves the Treasury with a heightened battle with the Histadrut, which is cur-

rently negotiating public sector pay for the coming two years. The labor federation's chairman, Amir Peretz, said the failure of the prime minister and finance minister to halt the tide of rising pay at the top level leaves them without credibility and he now intends demanding an 8% increase in pay of all public sector employees.

The Third Way, meanwhile, has called on Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon to hold the vote once again. Its members maintain the wording of the proposal on the Knesset order papers led MKs to believe there was not going to be a vote on Monday night. None of the party's MKs participated in the vote.

Jobseekers down 5.3% in September

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

The number of jobseekers fell a seasonally adjusted 5.3 percent in September to 149,400, the Employment Service announced yesterday.

Despite this downturn and the reduction in unemployment blackspots around the country from 19 to 9, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said there is still no sign of renewed economic growth.

"From a deep examination of the figures, it's become clear that, given the prevailing conditions in the economy, we've almost completely filled the jobs available," said Yishai. "One of the conditions that will encourage investors to invest and create jobs is keeping interest rates low."

Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper also warned Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel not to increase interest rates, when he makes his monthly monetary announcement next Monday. If rates are raised, "it will endanger the renewal of growth and lead to a deepening of the recession," Propper said.

Central bank governors the world over are currently reducing rather than increasing rates.

Frenkel told *The Jerusalem Post* next week's announcement and those in the coming months will reflect the changes in the Israeli and wider economies. He added that he has no regrets about last month's decision to leave rates unchanged, when asked if he should have increased them. Most of the developments that may have necessitated an increase in rates only took place after the last monetary announcement.

Meanwhile, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky called for a change in overall economic policy, following the publication of Central Bureau of Statistics data on Monday, which pointed to a continuation or even deepening of the slowdown.



Seeking better schools

A youth throws a rock at riot police yesterday, during a protest in Paris by high school students seeking more teachers, better equipment, and a lighter course load.

(AP)

Study: Economy to shrink 1% in '99

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Next year is bound to be the worst in Israel's economic history since the recession of the mid-1960s, according to an exceptionally pessimistic business forecast published yesterday by the Euro Strategies financial consultants.

For the first time since 1953 the economy will register negative growth of 1 percent, coupled with a 9% decline in investments and a moderate climb in exports and consumption, according to the company's joint managers, Pinchas Landau and Avi Temkin.

According to the forecast, the budget deficit will expand to 3.5% of gross domestic product, a gap which will need to be offset by raising capital both locally and overseas. This, in turn, will push yields upwards, despite the recessionary conditions which should ordinarily result in reduced interest rates.

Inflation, according to the forecast, will total 6-7% in 1999, while the shekel will lose a further 10-13% of its dollar value, hitting by the end of the year rates of NIS 4.75 to the dollar and NIS 5.25 to the Bank of Israel's basket of leading foreign currencies.

The labor market stands to be severely hit by all this, with the jobless rate - currently just above 9% - hovering for most of next year at around 11%, and crossing, by the end of 1999, the 12% bar.

In all, the negative trends which have been plaguing the local economy since last year will next year continue in earnest and even be exacerbated, according to the forecast.

The main causes behind these trends, say Landau and Temkin, are a global credit crunch, which makes raising capital increasingly difficult; the severe recession in the

global economy, which results in reduced foreign trade in a host of industries, including high tech; and Israel's continued fiscal and monetary restraint.

The forecast's main assumptions are:

- due to a lack of dramatic changes in civilian or military conditions, the government will not increase spending, and the deficit will

reflect a decline in internal revenues;

- real-term wages will continue eroding;

- and the global financial marketplace will be characterized by a flight from high-risk venues to cash and quality alternatives, meaning that high tech will find it more difficult, and expensive, to raise capital abroad.

Russian central bank unveils stopgap plan

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's central bank plans to liquidate about a fifth of the country's 1,550 banks in the first half of 1999, according to a restructuring plan sent to parliament on yesterday.

The central bank also plans individual restructuring programs for 15 banks, including some large banks unable to operate but whose closure would have grave social and economic consequences.

The central bank will hold shares in those 15 banks as collateral and will eventually transfer their restructured operations to new investors.

In the document sent to parliament, the central bank advocated different approaches for four groups of banks.

The first group, numbering 862 as of September 1, comprise sta-

ble banks with enough capital to survive unaided, and banks which have only minor problems and plans to solve them.

The central bank said it could support liquidity of those banks but could also impose temporary restrictions on some operations on the banks with problems. If they failed to carry out their stabilization programs, they would be liquidated, the document said.

A second group, comprising 398 banks, includes regional banks with large branch networks and generally sufficient capital. The central bank would acquire stakes in those banks for about three years and appoint managers.

Those banks would take over the responsibilities and clients of bankrupt regional banks and be involved mainly in credits for industry, trade, and small busi-

nesses and servicing households.

Their access to financial markets would be limited to operations necessary to support their liquidity, provide foreign exchange services for importers and exporters, and hedge financial risks, the document said.

The third group comprises the 15 banks which would need individual restructuring programs.

The fourth group, comprising 275 banks, was considered unable to function and would be liquidated in the first half of next year, the document said.

The central bank would require all banks to limit their activities within their financial-industrial groups, consolidate balances with all affiliates, and not invest in non-banking business.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Greece warns EU on aid to Turkey

ATHENS (Reuters) - Greece has warned the European Union it will take it to court if it tries to circumvent a Greek veto on aid to Turkey, the semi-official Athens News Agency (ANA) reported on yesterday. It said Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos had issued the warning in a letter to Austrian Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel.

ANA said Pangalos had asked Schuessel to intervene to prevent

the Commission, the EU's executive, from releasing funds for Turkey that Athens has been blocking since 1996.

The commission is expected to consider a proposal today to provide Turkey with approximately 200 million euros (\$240 million) in aid. Greece has used its veto in EU ministerial meetings to block aid to Ankara that was supposed to help Turkey adapt to a customs union with the 15-nation EU.

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FINANCIAL MARKETS

TASE gains on Wye optimism

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	+1.025
Tel Aviv 100	+1.025
Tel Aviv 200	+1.025
Tel Aviv 300	+1.025
Tel Aviv 400	+1.025
Tel Aviv 500	+1.025
Tel Aviv 600	+1.025
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Tel Aviv 900	+1.025
Tel Aviv 1000	+1.025

LAST	CHANGE
Bayer	+1.025
Deutsche Bank	+1.025
Deutsche Telekom	+1.025
Deutsche Post	+1.025
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Tel Aviv

Stocks gained yesterday for the fifth session in six days, led by electronic telephony company Nice Systems, on optimism Israel and the Palestinians may soon break the deadlock on Middle East peace.

The Maof Index of 25 largest companies gained 1.82 percent to 276.50, with 21 shares rising and three declining. The Tel Aviv 100 Index advanced 1.66 percent to 271.96.

Osem Investment and Elite Industries, two of the country's largest food manufacturers, rose 3.9 percent to NIS 18.6 and 5.3 percent to NIS 108.5 respectively. Improved relations with Israel's Arab neighbors may allow the companies, both of which make products locally for foreign food manufacturers, to boost exports in the region, Alazrak said.

Nice Systems rose 5.7 percent to NIS 66.8 after announcing it will sign a distribution agreement with Alcatel SA of France, the world's No. 4 maker of telephone equipment.

"That's good news for the company. If they call line up with Alcatel in the call-center market, it

another blue chip distributor for them," said Keith Phillips, an analyst at Societe Generale Securities and Trading.

Europe

UK stocks rose for the sixth time in eight days, as prospects for lower interest rates and speculation about mergers in the financial industry boosted Lloyds TSB Group Plc and other banks.

Drug stocks surged after SmithKline Beecham Plc reported better-than-expected third-quarter earnings.

The FTSE 100 Index rose 17.4 points, or 3.43 percent, to 5251.9, more than reversing yesterday's 1 percent decline.

Sixteen stocks gained for every one that fell, although the gains still leave the index about 15 percent below its July 20 high of 6183.7.

"Since the mid-July peak, bank shares have fallen by more than the average, so to some extent we're beginning to talk about consolidation for weakness," said John Hatherly, who helps manage about 19 billion pounds (\$32.5 billion) at M&G Investment Management Ltd. "If you're very careful, there is

STOCKS

Manf 276.50	+1.82%
Dow Jones 8505.85	+0.5%
FTSE 5251.9	+3.43%
Nikkei 13908.05	+1.78%

some good value around." Hatherly said he recommends buying bank stocks "on a very selective and careful basis."

Banks rose after the Financial Times reported Germany's Deutsche Bank AG may buy US-based Bankers Trust Corp., citing people with a knowledge of the situation. Banks also got some help from expectations the Bank of England will cut rates again soon.

Lower rates boost demand for loans and credit and reduce the cost of doing business for banks.

"Value is beginning to appear in

UK equities," said Tony Hardy, an investment manager at Church Commissioners, the investment arm of the Church of England, which oversees 1.8 billion pounds (\$3 billion) in assets. He's buying media and high-technology companies as well as retailers that have been "badly beaten up."

Asia

Japanese stocks rose for a third day, pacing gains in Hong Kong, Korea and Malaysia, as gains on Wall Street fuelled hopes a strong US economy will support exporters' earnings.

Sony Corp. led as the Nikkei 225 rose 240.85 points, or 1.8 percent, to 13,908.05, marking up its first three-day rally in six weeks. The benchmark Hang Seng index rose 0.5 percent to 9642.75, its eighth gain in ten days. Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur composite index surged 6.6 percent to 422.61.

The blue chips are getting a lift from the rally on Wall Street and signs the yen may be losing momentum," said Yoshitaka Nitta, an assistant senior manager at Credit Lyonnais (Tokyo).

(Bloomberg)

Wall Street

Wall Street's rally faded yesterday as profit-taking set in, but the Dow Jones industrial average still managed its first close over 8,500 since late August.

The Dow, up 528 points over the past four sessions, closed at 8,505.85, up 39.40 or about 0.5 percent. But it was down considerably from earlier in the session, when the market's best-known barometer was up more than 186 points. And broader market indexes also gave up gains and finished with losses on the day.

The Standard and Poor's 500 rose 1.54 to 1,063.93, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 9.54 to 1,639.19.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 2-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 2,138 up, 1,010 down and 393 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 947.47 million shares, up from 714.79 million in the previous session.

The NYSE composite index rose 2.78 to 528.28, and the American Stock Exchange composite index rose 10.55 to 616.27.

(AP)

UOL Corp	66.375	+5.525
USG Corp	44.875	+0.75
UST Inc	11.625	+1.025
USX Health	20.475	+0.25
USX Corp	25.875	+0.125
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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.660	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.10.98)

Currency	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Buy	Sell	Rate
U.S. dollar	4.7132	4.7893				4.7653
U.S. dollar	4.2705	4.3925	4.19	4.40		4.3160
German mark	2.6147	2.8606	2.66	2.70		2.6440
Pound sterling	7.3550	7.4025	7.16	7.51		7.3765
French franc	0.7798	0.7824	0.76	0.81		0.7885
Japanese yen (100)	3.6430	3.7018	3.58	3.76		3.6895
Dutch florin	2.3189	2.3564	2.27	2.39		2.3446
Swiss franc	3.2066	3.2884	3.16	3.31		3.2433
Swedish krona	0.5471	0.5560	0.53	0.57		0.5525
Norwegian krona	0.5718	0.5811	0.55	0.59		0.5783
Danish krona	0.8877	0.8988	0.87	0.91		0.8952
Finnish mark	0.8598	0.8737	0.84	0.89		0.8692
Canadian dollar	2.7570	2.8015	2.70	2.85		2.7905
Australian dollar	2.6902	2.7338	2.64	2.78		2.7197
S. African rand	0.7483	0.7614	0.67	0.77		0.7572
Belgian franc (10)	1.2678	1.2883	1.24	1.31		1.2807
Austrian schilling (10)	3.7169	3.7759	3.65	3.83		3.7584
Italian lire (1000)	2.6443	2.6870	2.59	2.73		2.6730
Jordanian dinar	6.0022	6.0991	5.88	6.33		6.1071
Egyptian pound			1.21	1.32		1.3164
ECU	5.1510	5.2341				5.2101
Irish punt	8.5220	8.6272	6.41	6.72		6.5905
Spanish peseta (100)	3.0782	3.1259	3.02	3.17		3.1101

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The shekel continued its slide yesterday falling another 1.63 percent against the dollar. The representative rate was fixed at a new high of NIS 4.316 per dollar.

Since the beginning of the month the shekel has dropped more than 12 percent against the dollar despite expectations for a rebound.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman told reporters yesterday the government has no intention of intervening in the currency market. He said the shekel and dollar are behaving according to the rules of supply and demand.

Dealers noted that the market suffers from low liquidity and therefore the shekel is losing ground faster. "Trading was very thin today and until the dollar crossed the NIS 4.3 level there

were no sellers," said a dealer at Bank Hapoalim. "The business sector was buying dollars for ongoing activity, but there were no sellers as investors prefer to wait and see where the market is going."

He added that there is much uncertainty in the market and economists can't predict in which direction the dollar is going.

The shekel has also depreciated against other major currencies, with the currency basket rising 1.6 percent to NIS 4.7653. The shekel also declined 2.24 percent against the pound while it gained 0.4 percent against the yen following the decline of Japanese currency abroad.

The dollar surged 3 percent against the yen in its biggest gain in six weeks on speculation a 60-trillion-yen plan to bail out Japan's troubled banks won't take effect any time

CURRENCIES

Dollar	4.3160	+1.57%
Mark	4.7653	+1.63%
Mark	2.6440	+1.13%
Sterling	7.3765	+2.24%

Metals down due to poor Japanese demand


Precious Metals

Palladium fell \$5, or 1.81 percent, to \$272.50 an ounce, a four-month low, while platinum fell \$2.75, or 0.74 percent, to \$334.5 an ounce, its lowest price since January 1992, amid speculation that Russia was shipping metal onto a world market suffering from poor Japanese demand. Russia is the world's largest source of palladium used in catalytic converters to reduce pollution from automobiles. Japan's 11 automakers exported fewer cars, trucks, and buses in August, the fourth straight monthly decline after two years of increases, as deliveries to the Asian region tum-

Oil

Crude oil for November delivery was little changed at \$13.29 a barrel, down 6 cents on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Traders were awaiting a weekly report from the American Petroleum Institute on the size of US oil inventories, a gauge of demand. The report was scheduled for release after the oil market closed. Last week, the API said crude oil stocks rose 8.2 million barrels, or 2.6 percent, during the week ended October 2. The November contract expires after trading today. December crude fell as much as 11 cents to \$13.42 a barrel on Nymex.

COMMODITIES



Gold	\$295.85	▼ 0.3%
Crude Oil	\$12.23	▼ 0.09%
CRB 203		▼ 0.23%

Others

Copper for December delivery fell as much as 0.55 cent, or 0.7 percent, to 73.30 cents a pound on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. Rising stock prices in warehouses monitored by

Others

Copper for December delivery fell as much as 0.55 cent, or 0.7 percent, to 73.30 cents a pound on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. Rising stockpiles in warehouses monitored by

the London Metal Exchange are outweighing robust demand from builders and other users. While US industrial production unexpectedly fell last month, demand from builders probably rose. A report showing starts on new US housing during September is scheduled for release today.

Still, demand isn't eroding LME copper inventories, which currently stand at 434,425 metric tons, 28 percent higher than the same period last year.

Coffee for December delivery fell as much as 4 cents, or 3.7 percent, to \$1.0275 a pound on the Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange in New York. While demand from US roasters is robust, as they stock up on beans in anticipation of cold weather, when demand is greatest, supplies of beans are set to rise. Brazil is harvesting its largest crop

in 11 years and other Central American harvests, including one in Mexico, the largest coffee supplier to the US, are under way.

Potatoes for April 1999 delivery in the UK jumped 7.7 percent to their highest in 33 months after more rain was forecast for the UK, increasing concern farmers won't be able to gather all their potatoes before winter sets in. Rain slowed spring planting and has hampered the harvest, which is only 55 percent complete, down from 81 percent a year ago, according to British Potato Council estimates. Potatoes rose as much as 15 pounds, or 7.7 percent, to 208 pounds (\$354.79) a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange. That's the highest price for a potato contract in London since January 19, 1996. (Bloomberg)

US bonds fall as stocks rally

BONDS

Co. stock market strategist Abby Joseph Cohen predicted a 12-month target price of 1250 for the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, CNBC reported, from 1079 now. The Fed's decision to lower rates before its planned November 17 meeting - the first time since April 1994 that policy was changed outside a scheduled meeting - fanned speculation that it's willing to cut further to forestall an economic slowdown.

In the corporate bond market, Saks, the nation's sixth-largest department store operator, is among a growing list of companies planning to sell some \$2.4 billion of debt to take advantage of low interest rates and improving demand after the Fed rate cut last week lent stability to the corporate market.

US 30-year T-bill yield

5.06 ▲ 0.08
Randy Bateman, who helps oversee \$1 billion at Sun Trust Private Capital Group in Orlando, Florida. "With the lower interest rates being perpetuated by the Fed, that should ease some recession fears," Bateman sees the 30-year Treasury yield moving between 5 percent and 5 1/2 percent for the next few months. On Monday, Goldman, Sachs &

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Bird ready to chirp in on Channel 4

CHANNEL Four's cheeky coup in landing the rights to broadcast Test cricket from next season has certainly taken the wind out of the BBC's sails.

Rather like the male members of the MCC, who managed to hold out for 200 years without having to put up with women enjoying the play in the hallowed pavilion at Lord's, so the BBC, with a monopoly of coverage since 1938, felt safe in the knowledge that no other television company would dare to muscle in on its act.

Household names like Richie Benaud, Tony Lewis, David Gower and Geoffrey Boycott have been almost glued to the commentators' seats. But one always felt that BBC's cricket coverage preached to the converted, and was too technical for anyone who might have had a cursory interest in the game.

Channel Four's agenda is radically different. Their pitch for the rights to show domestic Tests appealed to the England Cricket Board and its chairman Lord McClaurin because of the channel's commitment to bring in a wider audience. And Lord(s) knows they need to attract the hundreds and thousands of kids who never get to play a game of cricket at school and who would rather adorne their bedroom walls with images of action from that other bat and ball game from over the pond which is gaining rapidly in popularity over here.

Of course, Middle England, that bastion of tradition, is seething at the thought of politically correct Channel Four, with its commitment to slots for ethnic minorities and gay

and lesbian issues, showing the Queen being presented to the teams during the tea interval at the Lord's Test. The Letters to the Editor page of Tuesday's *Daily Telegraph* included the phrases like "dumbing down," "erosion of standards" and "aimed at mentally retarded five year olds" to describe what they perceive to be coming on our screens.

But the most interesting issue at stake, is whether Boycott will be invited to join the Channel Four team. The company has opened negotiations with Benaud, but is holding out over Boycott, and according to Tuesday's *Daily Mail*, the great Yorkshireman could well be replaced by fellow Tyke Dickie Bird, the recently retired Test umpire.

The two men, both reported to be millionaires, live close to each other outside Barnsley, and both like to have a friendly dig at each other on the lucrative after-dinner circuit. Bird has a massive following and his presence in the box would undoubtedly attract a cult following. Former Test stars Michael Holding and Ian Chappell are also on the shortlist.

Holding is the perfect fit in terms of Four's multi-cultural appeal, while Chappell represents the typical anti-establishment Aussie who would be able to give viewers an insight into the language of "sledging."

As you read this, the England tour party are heading Down Under for a near three-month

itinerary which includes five Tests with the Australians, and a World Series one-day triangular tournament. England do not have history on their side. Only five times in all, and just twice since the First World War, has an England captain won back the Ashes in Australia - Douglas Jardine in 1932-3 and Ray Illingworth in 1970-1.

The current party, led by Surrey's Alec Stewart, does not look particularly well equipped to give the Australians too much to worry about. The batting is strong, with a rejuvenated Mike Atherton opening ahead of a wealth of talent. Any one of Graeme Thorpe, Nasser Hussain, John Crawley and Mark Ramprakash has the ability to take any attack in the world apart.

The problem is that unlike Jardine who had Harold Larwood, and Illingworth who had John Snow, Stewart is lacking in penetrating strike power. Angus Fraser and Darren Gough on their day are match-winners, but a day is only a small percentage of a tour, and in terms of a spin attack, Robert Croft and Peter Such, with 32 Test wickets between them, rivaling Shane Warne's 300-plus.

Even if Warne is unfit, it is difficult to imagine England spinning their way to success. If you are a football fan, the best place to be for jury service this week is Leeds, where the

High Court was sitting in a case which, depending on the outcome, will undoubtedly have repercussions for years to come.

The case was brought by First Division club Bradford City, and their player Gordon Watson, against Huddersfield Town defender Stuart Gray. Watson is suing Gray for negligence following a robust challenge in a First Division match in February 1997 which left the Bradford player with a double fracture of the right leg. Watson, who at the time of the incident had recently joined the club as its record transfer of £575,000, was out of action for 18 months (he returned to first team action last week).

Former Bradford manager Chris Kamara told the court that Gray's challenge was "unacceptable," and a video of the incident was shown to the jury. If Watson is successful, it could pave the way for more litigation from players who have been forced out through injury.

Another player whose career ended with an injury has found a more creative way to secure his future. Former Leyton Orient youth striker Mark Gribble, whose playing days were ended after he broke a leg at the age of 18, has placed a £50 bet at odds of 20,000 to one that his child to be will play for England before the age of 25. Gribble does not know the sex of his child, due to be born in February. But Gribble's bet is surely not so outlandish. The way the England team are playing at the moment, there's a womb for improvement.

London Calling



Mark Rivlin

SPORTS

in brief

Holtzman moves to Austria Vienna

Hapoel Haifa's Shai Holtzman will complete his move to Austria Vienna today for a transfer fee of \$150,000.

The international striker, who returned to Israel last season after an unsuccessful foray to the French first division where he was a player with Rennes, is expected to be available for the Austrian club for their match on Sunday against SV Ried. The Viennese club currently lies in fifth place in the Austrian first division.

Offer Ronen-Abels

Warne hints he may miss Ashes series

LONDON (Reuters) - Leg-spinner Shane Warne said he has not bowled properly for six months and hinted he might miss the Ashes series against England.

"I have to face the ugly truth that I am losing my battle to be fit to face England in the first Ashes Test," Warne said in a column in Tuesday's *Daily Mirror*.

"For the first time I have to admit that I haven't bowled a proper leg-break for six months. It could be another three weeks before I try again."

"I'm working on bowling properly again in the next few weeks. I may have to be patient and wait for the World Cup in England next June." The first Test begins in Brisbane on November 20.

Warne said his recovery after major shoulder surgery in May was well ahead of schedule but he was far from ready to bowl in a Test match.

Real looking to mark return home with a victory

By MIKE COLLETT

LONDON (Reuters) - European champions Real Madrid should mark the return of European soccer to their own Santiago Bernabeu Stadium with a victory over Austrian Sturm Graz in the Champions' League today.

Real were banned by UEFA from playing at home in their first Champions' League match of the season on September 16 following the collapse of a goal before last season's semifinal against Borussia Dortmund.

And although Real beat Inter Milan 2-0 in that game, they went down to a 2-1 defeat in Moscow to Spartak three weeks ago, and cannot afford

another slip against the Austrians who are currently propping up Group C with no points and no goals from their opening two games.

Spartak currently top the group with six points from their opening matches - the only team in the 24-strong Champions' League with maximum points after two matches - with Real second and Inter third, both with three points.

Meanwhile Inter, who crashed 5-3 at home to Lazio on Sunday, take on Spartak in Turin in a match they dare not lose either.

There is an intriguing match in prospect in Group D in which Bayern Munich take on Barcelona in a real battle of

the heavyweights.

Bayern, who surprisingly lost their opening Champions' League match 2-1 to Borussia after conceding two goals in the last two minutes, saved themselves from defeat with a last minute equalizer for a 2-2 draw against Manchester United three weeks ago.

Bayern must now show the kind of form that has brought them an eight-match unbeaten domestic league run which has put them on top of the Bundesliga, against the Danes, who crashed 2-0 to Barcelona last time out.

Manchester United meanwhile, who crushed Wimbledon 5-1 on Saturday and have been improving rapidly recently, will be looking

for their first Champions' League win in Copenhagen against Brondby after drawing their opening two games against Barcelona (3-3) and Bayern (2-2).

In Group A a win for either Olympiakos Piraeus or Ajax Amsterdam would go a long way towards guaranteeing them a place in the quarter-finals. They both have four points, with Porto and Croatia Zagreb who meet in Portugal, both on one.

In the Cup Winners' Cup tomorrow, holders Chelsea should take a big stride towards a place in the quarter-finals with a home win over FC Copenhagen of Denmark at Stamford Bridge in the first leg of their second round tie.

Seeds sail through to quarterfinals of national tennis championships

By HEATHER CHAIT

There were few surprises yesterday at the national closed tennis championships in Jerusalem as seed after seed cruised into today's quarter-final rounds.

Top seed Lior Mor beat Tomer Dank 6-4, 6-4 to set up a meeting with Yoni Erlich, who beat Liron Strauss 6-3, 6-1.

At the other end of the draw, Nir Welgreen, the second seed, will face Andy Ram and Welgreen beat Ari Strassburg 6-1, 6-1, and Ram battered Dan Hanegbi 6-1, 6-3.

Amir Hadad and Eyal Erlich both pulled out of the tournament

at the last minute due to injury. This opens the field to Noam Okkun, Kobi Ziv, Michael Kogan and Raviv Weidenfeld, the other players in the last eight.

In the women's tournament, Anna Smashnova conceded just one game as she swept past Sharon Marin 6-0, 6-1, to meet Anat Alazari in today's quarter-final. Alazari had almost as easy a time, beating Dikla Dadon 6-1, 6-1.

Second seed Hila Rosen kept a clean slate against Tanya Lozonky, winning 6-0, 6-0 and now plays Sasha Edelstein.

The only women's seed to fall was Lior Gabbai who lost to Heli Bar-Gil, 7-5, 6-2.

Other players in the quarter-final round are Nataly Cahana, new immigrant from the US Jaqueline Rosen and Tzipori Obziler.

Play at the Israel Tennis Center courts in Katamon resumes today at 10 a.m.

Meanwhile, the names of the tennis players to be crowned as Israel's best over the past 50 years have been announced. Amos Mansdorf, Shlomo Glickstein and Elazar Davidman were chosen among the men with Anna Smashnova, Ilana Berger and Tova Epstein winning among the women. They will be feted at a ceremony at the Jerusalem municipality tomorrow night.

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Inside

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Page 18Rivlin's London Calling
Page 17Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Hapoel Jerusalem remain perfect

By ELI GRONER

Hapoel Jerusalem continued its impressive European season in style, roaring past Kormend of Hungary 89-61, in Saporta Cup action at Malcha last night. The win left Jerusalem a perfect 5-0 after the Cup's first round, in first place of group 5 by two games.

Hapoel jumped out to an early 7-0 lead and never looked back. The hosts grabbed the lead in the game's first minute, and gradually built it to a 30-point advantage, before a last second Kormend layup.

Kenny Williams led the Jerusalemites with 16 points and 15 rebounds, doing most of the damage in the first half - when the game's outcome was still in doubt.

But Hapoel's biggest boost came from the bench, in the form of Eli Baloul. After riding the pine for virtually the entire season to date, Baloul contributed an important six points and two rebounds over the first half's final five minutes. He tallied 14 points and seven rebounds overall.

See PERFECT, Page 18

Villa gain hard-earned win at Vigo

VIGO, Spain (Reuters) - A 15th-minute strike from Julian Joachim proved enough to give Aston Villa a valuable 1-0 away win over Celta Vigo in their UEFA Cup second round first leg clash last night.

Joachim snatched the ball past French goalkeeper Richard Dutruel after being fed through on the left by Stan Collymore, who once again turned in a hard-working display for the Premier League side.

Villa were forced into some desperate defense as Celta launched wave after wave of attack, midfielder Tomas Hervas three times going close with long-range efforts after coming on as a second-half substitute.

But John Gregory's side somehow kept their opponents at bay to secure a victory that leaves Celta Vigo a mountain to climb in the second leg in Birmingham in two weeks' time.

Liverpool 0, Valencia 0
At Anfield, Liverpool goalkeeper David James was forced to make a brilliant save from a Gaizka Mendietta free kick to deny Valencia a surprise UEFA Cup win in a match that ended goalless.

The Spanish side also saw Romanians Adrian Ilie and Gabriel Popescu waste good chances to win the second round, first leg match, but the Spaniards were still happy at the end with the prospect of the second leg to come at home in two weeks' time.

Liverpool, who have gone five league matches without a win, enjoyed their best spell midway through the first half when a Karlheinz Riedle header from a Steve Staunton corner was hacked off the line by Popescu after 20 minutes.

Liverpool dropped young striking prodigy Michael Owen for the first time in a year but he came on as a substitute for Robbie Fowler and nearly snatched the winner



Aston Villa's goal scorer Julian Joachim (right) fights for the ball with Celta Vigo's Goran Djorovic in UEFA Cup action last night. (Reuters)

with a 78th minute effort.
Roma 1, Leeds Utd 0
Hosts AS Roma rode their luck and made their extra man count to beat a managerless 10-man Leeds United 1-0.

Marco Delvecchio scored the only goal of the game after 17 minutes, capitalizing on a slip by Leeds' South African captain

Lucas Radebe to break free down the left and beat goalkeeper Nigel Martyn with a high left foot shot.

English premier league side Leeds, with caretaker manager David O'Leary watching from the stands due to a touchline ban, then hit the post twice before halftime.

The match turned Roma's way after 55 minutes when Leeds' Portuguese midfielder Bruno

Ribeiro, booked as early as the third minute, was sent off for a foul on Alessandro Frau.

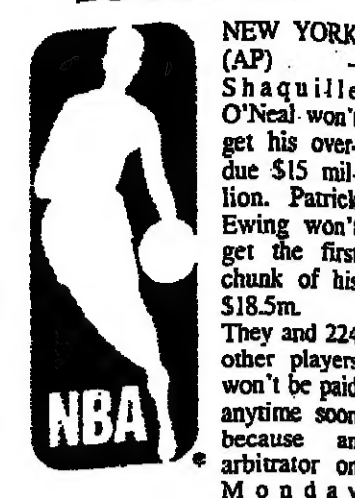
The Italians dominated the rest of the half but failed to add to their score.

Celtic 1, FC Zurich 1
FC Zurich captain Urs Fischer snatched a valuable away goal to

give the Swiss team a 1-1 draw against Glasgow Celtic.

Norwegian striker Harald Brattbakk gave the Scottish champions the lead in the 23rd minute when he volleyed in a Jackie McNamara cross from six meters to atone for earlier misses.

See VILLA, Page 18

No salaries during
lockout

NEW YORK (AP) - Shaquille O'Neal won't get his overdue \$15 million. Patrick Ewing won't get the first chunk of his \$18.5m.

They and 224 other players won't be paid anytime soon because an arbitrator on Monday rejected the union's grievance that all players with guaranteed contracts should be paid during the lockout.

The ruling by arbitrator John Feerick, dean of Fordham Law School, bolstered the bargaining position of the owners and saved them from having to go to court to avoid paying more than \$700m in salaries.

"We are pleased with the arbitrator's ruling," NBA chief legal officer Jeffrey Mishkin said. "Unfortunately, it does not get us any closer to a deal."

"Only negotiations will end our current impasse and lead to a settlement of our dispute. This is yet another defeat for the union's strategy of litigation."

The league has already canceled the first two weeks of the season, costing the players about \$100m in lost salaries. More cancellations will probably be announced next week, since no new bargaining sessions are scheduled and the sides are far apart on the main issue of controlling the growth of player salaries.

"I kind of expected it," union director Billy Hunter said.

"I was hoping Dean Feerick would be inclined to see things our way, but we knew it would be a giant leap for him to take, especially since he is a labor lawyer by profession."

The uncertainty of how Feerick would rule had been a factor in the stalemate all summer and was one of the reasons the sides have met only three times for formal bargaining sessions.

The players' resolve will now be tested since they won't be getting paychecks until the lockout is settled. They had been holding out hope that a verdict in their favor would pressure the owners to soften their stance and come to the table with a better offer.

"The players don't seem to realize they can't get that money back. It's gone, gone forever, and they seem to think that's not the case," commissioner David Stern said.

Hunter said he and union president Patrick Ewing had spoken to 20 players since Feerick's decision was announced.

"If you thought the guys were zealous about staying committed to the cause, they're probably more rabid than they were before," Hunter said.

See NBA, Page 18

Padres hope change of scenery will change luck

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Tony Gwynn was standing alone in right field, checking out the grass torn up a day earlier by an NFL game, and his hearty laugh echoed throughout the empty ballpark.

Gwynn was the first player on the field for the San Diego Padres' practice Monday afternoon, and his disposition matched the weather - bright sunshine, blue California sky and warm temperatures.

A change of scenery for the World Series, for sure, from the subway trains clacking outside

You gotta love/hate the Yankees, Page 18

Yankee Stadium to the palm trees inside Qualcomm Stadium.

But a change in the Padres' luck against the Yankees? No telling. The Yankees look unbeatable so far, taking a 2-0 lead into Game 3 last night. David Cone was slated to start against former Yankees pitcher Sterling Hitchcock.

"What I've seen from New York in the first two games, I'll have to admit, is very impressive," Gwynn said. "We're down 0-2, but we can get back in this thing if we play our game, which is pitching and defense and some timely hits."

Gwynn has done his part, tied for the Series lead with four hits. Yet unless Padres pitching improves, it could be over real soon.

Of the 44 teams to take a 2-0 lead in the World Series, 33 have gone on to win the championship. Then again, the Yankees were

wiped out at home by Atlanta in the first two games in 1996 before coming back to win four in a row. Cone began that comeback with a win in Game 3.

Cone traveled to the West Coast on Sunday, before the Yankees romped 9-3 in Game 2. He was already in San Diego relaxing while watching the victory.

"This is the time of year when pitchers feel a bit fatigued," he said. "I'm looking forward to closing this out and getting a nice rest."

Hitchcock already has beaten Houston's Randy Johnson and Atlanta's Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine in the playoffs. Last night, he was likely to have faced his toughest challenge, trying to shut down a Yankees team that scored nine runs in two straight nights against San Diego.

"They can hit. Bottom line, they can hit," Hitchcock said. Hitchcock, however, will have a few advantages that Padres starters Kevin Brown and Andy Ashby did not have. For one thing, he's feel-

ing a little better, aside from some congestion - a flu bug bit the San Diego staff right before the opener.

Hitchcock had two other factors in his favor - he was facing a lineup that does not include a designated hitter, and the game was scheduled for twilight.

The DH is not used at the National League park, meaning Cone, a career .152 hitter, would bat. That could mean Chili Davis would be on the bench, although Yankees manager Joe Torre held out the possibility that Davis might play left field.

Game 3 was scheduled to begin at 5:20 p.m. PDT (02:20 Israel time this morning).

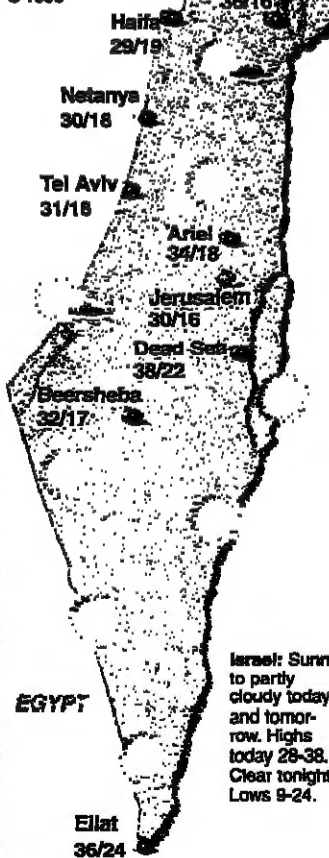
WORLD SERIES
New York leads series 2-0
Last night: New York (Cone 20-7) at San Diego (Hitchcock 9-7)
Today: New York at San Diego
Tomorrow: New York at San Diego
If necessary
Saturday: San Diego at New York
If necessary
Sunday, Oct. 25: San Diego at New York, if necessary

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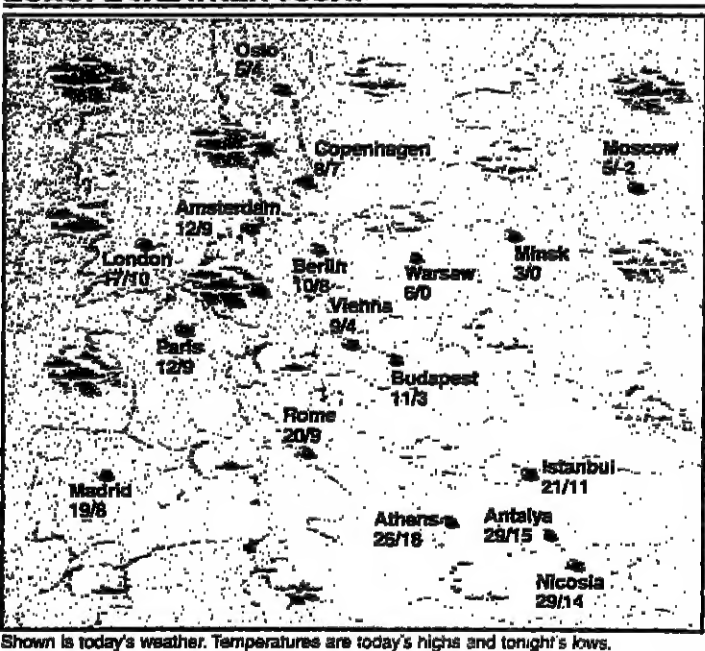
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THE WEATHER

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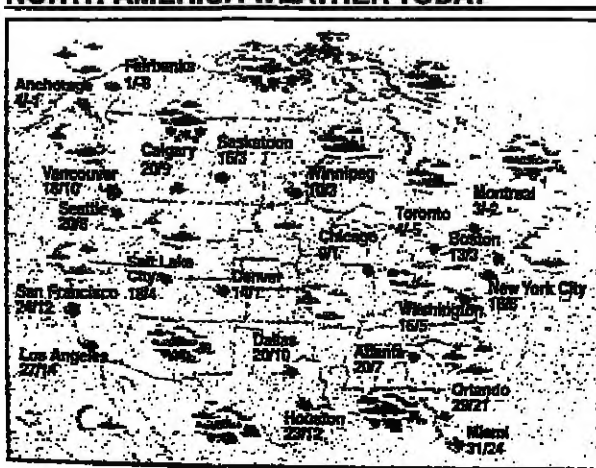
Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Ariel	34/33	18/16	35/31	20/18	34/33	20/18	35/35	20/18
Beer Sheva	32/31	17/16	33/31	18/17	33/31	18/17	34/33	20/18
Dead Sea	39/100	22/11	38/102	22/11	37/95	23/13	38/100	23/13
Eilat	36/97	24/15	36/97	24/15	37/98	25/17	37/98	25/17
Haifa	20/14	10/9	21/16	11/10	22/19	12/7	23/19	12/7
Jerusalem	30/16	16/11	31/18	16/11	31/18	16/11	32/19	16/11
Katzev	31/18	16/11	32/19	16/11	33/20	16/11	33/20	16/11
Netanya	30/16	16/11	31/18	16/11	32/19	16/11	33/20	16/11
Tel Aviv	31/18	16/11	32/19	16/11	33/20	16/11	34/21	16/11
Tiberias	36/97	16/11	37/98	16/11	38/99	16/11	39/100	16/11

Weather (W) = sunny, pe-porly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, drizzle, fog, snow, ice.

City	Today		Thursday		Friday	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Amsterdam	12/5	8/4	16/11	12/6	18/11	11/2
Beijing	23/7	11/3	18/4	5/1	18/4	9/4
Berlin	10/3	8/4	15/9	9/4	17/6	9/4
Brussels	12/3	10/5	15/9	11/3	18/4	12/3
Cairo	31/18	18/14	33/21	20/18	33/21	20/18
Chicago	5/4	1/4	8/4	0/2	12/3	4/3
Frankfurt	8/4	7/4	14/7	8/4	17/8	8/4
Hong Kong	25/24	22/21	28/22	23/18	29/24	24/15
Johannesburg	30/16	17/12	27/10	15/12	27/10	14/5
London	17/8	10/5	18/4	13/5	17/8	11/2
Los Angeles	27/10	14/5	28/12	13/5	29/12	12/3
Madrid	19/8	8/4	23/13	10/5	24/13	13/5
Mexico City	21/10	11/5	18/4	9/4	21/10	9/4
Montreal	2/2	-2/2	2/2	-2/2	2/2	-2/2
Moscow	5/4	-2/2	2/2	-2/2	11/2	7/4
New York	16/1	6/3	10/5	4/3	11/2	6/3
Paris	12/3	8/4	14/7	9/4	16/11	11/2
Prague	8/4	4/3	11/2	6/3	17/8	8/4
Rio de Janeiro	25/17	21/10	24/13	18/14	24/13	18/14
Rome	20/13	9/4	21/10	12/3	24/13	16/11
Sydney	19/8	10/5	18/4	13/5	21/10	9/4
Tokyo	21/10	17/8	18/4	13/5	22/11	11/2
Toronto	4/3	-2/2	2/2	-2/2	13/5	5/4
Vienna	9/4	4/3	11/2	6/3	16/11	11/2
Warsaw	8/4	4/3	11/2	6/3	16/11	11/2
Washington	16/1	5/4	12/3	3/3	12/3	4/3
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NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



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DARNA - Authentic Moroccan Restaurant. KOSHER. Our home is your home. Business lunch; salads, couscous, dessert, traditional mint tea. Only NIS 69 with this ad. Open 12:00-3:00 p.m., 6:30-11:30 p.m. 3 Harkanos St. Tel: 02-624 5406.

DEVORAH SCHECTER CATERING - Kosher Limehadrin, Jerusalem Rabbinate. Catering for all occasions, Shabbat and Hagim. Meat, dairy and parve menus. Great desserts. Tel: 02-679 4872. Fax: 02-675 5370.

HECHAL SHILOMO - RESTAURANT/CATERERS serving you the best, freshest, most delicious food in an exclusive environment. Functions for up to 150. Bit Mithas, Bar Mitzvahs, 7 Brachos, 58 King George St., Glat Kasher/meat. Tel: 02-622 3312.

MARVAD HAKSAMIN ORIENTAL RESTAURANT - Mid-Eastern and Yemenite food; Kosher/meat Open for lunch & dinner till 11:00 p.m.; Sun.-Thurs., Fri. till 3:00 p.m. 16 King George St. (next to Carvel). Tel: 02-625 4470.

NORMAN'S STEAK'N BURGER - Freshest burgers, steaks, ribs, chicken, fish, salads and more, grilled to perfection. American style food and service. Kosher Jerusalem Rabbinate, 27 Emek Refaim, German Colony. Tel: 02-566 6603.

THE PIE SHOP - TEA & PIE, DON'T PASS ME BY, kosher, sweet & savory pies, dairy menu; soups, salads, toasts, specialty drinks. Open 11:00 a.m.-12 midnight. 9 Yoel Solomon (back yard). Tel: 02-624 8712.

RESTAURANT MISHKENOT SHAANANIM - Superb French cuisine for lunch & dinner, 7 days a week. Outstanding wine cellar, elegant setting - spectacular view - private room. Located in Yemin Moshe (below the Guest House). Tel: 02-625 1042.

RIENZI - Candle light dining in an elegant decor. Fresh fish and home-made pasta. Kosher Limehadrin - Dairy. Business lunch from NIS 39. Open Hoi Hamood Succot. 10 King David St. (Opp New Hilton Hotel). Open Sat. Nites. Tel: 02-622 2312.

A Jerusalem landmark - RIMON RESTAURANT Grilled Meats and Middle Eastern cuisine. CAFE RIMON Dairy and Fish. Superb pastry. Indoor-outdoor seating. Glat Kasher Limehadrin. 4 Lutz St. (off Midrachov). Tel: 02-624 3712.

SAVION - Enjoy al fresco or spacious air-conditioned dining. Serving a delicious Fish & Dairy menu - Kosher Rabbinate. Celebrate birthdays with us! Open 7:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m. daily & motza'ei Shabbat. Ben Maimon 1, corner Azza. Tel: 02-567 0708.

SIGMUND CORNER BISTRO/CAFE - Art Deco Decor - Serving crepes, sandwiches, ice cream, shakes & brewed coffees. Reasonable prices. Sun.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-1 a.m., Fri. 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sat. 8:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Kosher. Corner Azza/Ha'ari St. Tel: 02-563 8212.

THE WILD BULL SHOR BAR STEAK HOUSE - Finest quality meats and generous portions. "Probably the best steaks and hamburgers in town". SPECIAL DEAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS. For reservations call 02-624 4396. 3 Ya'abetz St., Jerusalem (behind the Bell Center).

THE 7TH PLACE - Popular Jerusalem dining spot, authentic Southern Indian and dairy cuisine. Spacious, bright and friendly. Live show every night. Kosher. 37 Hill St. (Beit Agon - the journalists center). Tel: 02-625 4495.

TROCADERO - New Italian Restaurant and Coffee Shop in the elegant Judaea Center at Gush Etzion Junction. Magnificent views. Private Party facilities. Free glass of wine with ad. Open 9 a.m.-midnight & Sat. night. Kosher dairy. Tel: 02-983 2777.

TZADDIK'S - Jerusalem's Real Authentic New York Deli. Corned beef, roast beef, brisket, salami, all-beef hot dogs, H&H bagels, draft beer. Kosher Limehadrin. 2 Tiferet Yisrael St., The Jewish Quarter. 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Tel: 02-827 2148.

ROSH PINA

MISEDET HAKFAR - Unique Argentinian Restaurant - Serves all year round quality meat meals on ORIGINAL PARRILLA. Country atmosphere, Rosh Pina. Tel: 06-693 8026 for reservations. (http://www.zimmer.co.il/misedit)

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